

Portfolio £42,000 to be won

A total of £42,000 is available to be won today in The Times Portfolio competition: the weekly prize of £20,000 is doubled because it was not won last week, and there is also the daily prize of £2,000.

Yesterday's £2,000 was won by Mr George Woolner of Maidenhead, Berkshire. Portfolio list, page 20, weekly prize list information service, back page.

Aids inquest warned of more deaths

More babies in Britain are likely to contract Aids, an inquest on a boy aged 21 months was told at St Pancras, London.

The coroner was told that the child had received blood transfusions in the United States.

Russia scorned

Albania has rejected Moscow's message of condolences on the death of Enver Hoxha and returned the telegram, the Albanian embassy in Vienna said.

Artist dies



John Gilroy, the artist and poster designer, who introduced the toucan and the man holding a girder to Guinness advertisements, has died in Guildford, Surrey. He was 86.

Back to jail

An American judge refused to clear Gary Dotson, jailed six years ago for rape, although his victim said she had made the whole thing up.

Oil go-ahead

Dorset councillors agreed to allow BP to drill for oil on Furze Island in Poole harbour. Environmental groups are to object.

Space senator

The space shuttle Discovery blasted off into orbit from the Kennedy Space Centre carrying the first senator to orbit the Earth.

Election killing

A man was beaten to death with stones and clubs in a clash between rival political groups in Lima as Peru's presidential election campaign closed.

Sudan pledge

Sudan's new military rulers have agreed to hand over power to an elected civilian government after 12 months' transition, a decision regarded as a compromise.

Ten-year coma

Karen Quinlan, subject of a famous 1976 court case, has now been in a coma for a decade.

Lyle shoots 65

Sandy Lyle followed a first round 78 with a 65, just outside the course record, to avoid the cut in the US Masters at Augusta.

Davies retires

Garth Davies, the Cardiff stand-off half, announced his retirement from international rugby, the third Wales captain to do so this season.

Leader page 9
Letters: On the Severn Bore, from Dr M. Moore, and others; hedges, from Mr D. Barker, and Lord Kilbracken
Leading articles: Mrs Thatcher in India; Karen Quinlan; theatrical mementoes
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Mr John Gilroy, Miss Enid McLeod, the Hon Mrs Dorothy Burns.

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No cheaper home loans despite cut in base rate

By Lorna Bourke and Peter Wilson-Smith

Building societies said yesterday there would be no early cut in mortgage rates despite the reduction in base rates by two of the big high street banks.

Barclays and Midland cut their base rates by half a percentage point to 12.75 per cent, undercutting National Westminster and Lloyds which are on 13 per cent.

They also cut the rates paid to savers. The seven-day deposit rate at Barclays goes down to 7.25 per cent and to 7 per cent at the Midland.

This will help to ease the pressure on the building societies and there is even a possibility that bank base rates could come down another notch soon.

The building societies are so short of money, however, that any cut in mortgage rates is likely to be a long way off still.

Yesterday, the Building Societies Association (BSA) announced that the net inflow of funds during March was £214 million, the lowest figure since last August when net receipts slumped to £188 million.

Mr Richard Weir, secretary-general of the BSA, said: "The decline in building society net receipts in March provides ample evidence of the need societies had to increase their rates from April 1. If societies do not pay their investors a competitive rate of interest, they will be unable to meet mortgage demand."

The societies have been

suffering from the banks' introduction of high interest accounts ahead of the April 6 deadline since when banks have been obliged to deduct basic rate tax at source from interest payments.

The rises in base rates during January allowed the banks to offer these accounts at very attractive interest rates.

To cope with demand for home loans, now enjoying a strong seasonal revival, the societies need to take in around £800 million a month. But even with the new higher investment rates which came into force at the beginning of this month, they are predicting net inflows of only £400 million to £500 million this month.

Rather than allowing mortgage queues to develop, the societies have been dipping into their liquidity to meet demand for home loans.

Mortgage commitments have climbed from just over £2,000 million in February to £2,331 million in March, the highest monthly figure since last June. To cope with this increase, societies have run down their liquidity from 17.7 per cent to 17.4 per cent.

Overall, however, the societies hope to be able to avoid queues. "Our rates are looking very competitive now and we would expect a good increase in net inflows in the coming months," Mr Mark Boleat, deputy secretary-general of the BSA, said.

Rates caution, page 11

MP threatens legal fight on reselection

By Our Political Editor

The Labour Party has been threatened with legal action if it does not intervene in the fight between Mr Reg Fresson, and Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, for the parliamentary seat of Brent East.

Mr Fresson, who is the sitting member, has alarmed Labour Party officials by giving the National Executive Committee until the end of next week to put a stop to the reselection procedure, which is now in full swing in Brent East, and to open an inquiry into what he alleges are the unconstitutional and improper tactics of his opponents.

His threat of legal action, and his latest dossier of complaints against Mr Livingstone's supporters, will be considered by Labour's organization committee on Monday. A canvass of the opinions of committee members yesterday indicated that his demands will be taken seriously.

If so, and if reselection, which has been arranged for April 28, is put off indefinitely, Mr Livingstone's chances of securing the Labour nomination to fight the next General Election in Mr Fresson's place, may be fatally harmed.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Brent East party, called this week to compile a shortlist of candidates, disclosed that a number of Mr Livingstone's former backers are actively contemplating withdrawing support. They regard the GLC leader as having betrayed socialism by voting last month in favour of the setting of a rate by his council in order to stay within the law.

On Thursday the full

management committee is to meet to approve the shortlist, which contains the names of Mr Livingstone and four others, but not that of Mr Fresson, who is a former housing minister.

Some members of the committee belong to an ultra-left Trotskyite group, associated with the newspaper *Socialist Organizer*. Although they have so far supported Mr Living-



Mr Reg Fresson: An ultimatum to party.

stone against Mr Fresson, there is now talk in their ranks of joining with Mr Fresson's remaining supporters in voting down the shortlist.

Such a step nullified the reselection procedure, whatever action the party organization may decide to take at national level. Mr Livingstone's campaign is thus in double jeopardy.

Last month Fresson announced that he would not take part in the reselection process. His local party and others assumed that he meant he was giving up the seat, but yesterday he put them right. "I intend to remain Labour MP for Brent East," he said.

Screening for cancer reviewed

The Government is setting up a team of experts to advise on the introduction of a screening system for breast cancer, the Minister for Health, Mr Kenneth Clarke, said last night (Thomson Prentice wires).

The decision has been prompted by publication in *The Lancet* of a Swedish study into the effectiveness of an X-ray screening test.

The study, begun in 1977, showed a 31 per cent reduction in mortality from breast cancer among women over 40 offered screening every two or three years.

Mr Clarke said: "We believe this study requires us to carry out a major review of policy on the availability of mammography and its role in screening symptomatic women."

"We hope we can assemble such a group quickly."

Spanish flight delays forecast

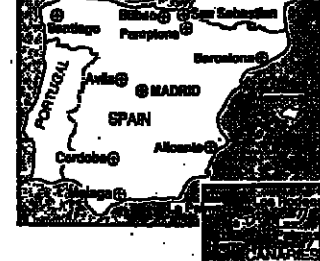
By David Nicholson-Lord

Support for Spanish pilots' criticisms of airport safety in Spain came yesterday from the international body representing pilots, which accused Spain of having postponed much-needed improvements on grounds of cost.

Captain Laurie Taylor, executive secretary of the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations, said Spain should "get its act together" on safety. "They should put back into their civilian air transport system some of the profits they make from tourists," he said.

Captain Taylor also forecast delays and diversions for holidaymakers travelling by air as pilots took steps to avoid the country's worst airports, particularly in bad weather.

Tourists would have to rely on the professionalism of pilots



and air-traffic controllers, he said.

Spanish controllers are threatening more industrial action in their long-running dispute with the authorities.

According to the Spanish news magazine, *Tiempo*, the Spanish airline pilots' union is preparing a report listing 15 of the country's airports as "dangerous" or "very dangerous". These in the latter category are Malaga, Madrid, Bilbao, San Sebastian, Los

Rodeos in Tenerife, and Las Palmas and Hierro in the Canaries.

The Spanish Government has described the criticisms as irresponsible and the British Airline Pilots' Association says it has no serious fears. "There have been significant improvements at Spanish airports over recent years," a BALPA spokesman said yesterday.

Captain Taylor agreed that there had been improvements, partly in response to a long history of protests.

But plans to upgrade airport facilities and radar had been deferred repeatedly for economic reasons, he said. "Radar in parts of Spain just doesn't exist."

Recent complaints had included faulty approach lights at Alicante and Girona, which should tell pilots whether they are at the correct height in their approach path.

TGWU asks for evidence to back call for new poll

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Mr Moss Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, has asked Mr George Wright, the defeated candidate in the leadership election, to provide evidence to support his call for fresh elections.

The election controversy is over alleged irregularities in last year's ballot. Mr Evans, who is attending a conference in Washington, told Mr Wright that any official complaints about the election would be investigated.

Mr Wright, the union's Welsh regional secretary, who was defeated by 45,000 votes in the election by Mr Ron Todd, said yesterday: "The union has already been given evidence. The problem will not go away and I believe that the only way to stop the union suffering further damage is to hold a fresh ballot as soon as possible."

Mr John Cousins, general secretary of the Clearing Bank Union, but also a member of the TGWU, said he had voted in the election for Mr Todd but he believed there was clear evidence of malpractice during the voting process. He said there should be a fresh ballot.

Mr Evans, who acted as the returning officer in the election, will return from Washington early next week to deal with the growing number of complaints about the conduct of the election. But any call for a new ballot will rest with June's quarterly meeting of the union's general executive council.

Mr Todd said it would be "totally improper for one of the five candidates to publicly respond to matters which are internal to the union. Whatever complaints people have should be the subject of submissions to the general secretary stating each specific complaint."

The union has investigated three complaints about the ballot. Complaints involving a Kent agricultural worker and staff at a bus garage in north London were rejected. However, complaints about ballot rigging in a local government branch in Bristol were upheld, and two officials were dismissed.

There are new allegations over the high level of voting in Ulster where union members have complained that they were

Continued on back page, col 6

Kinnock accuses Thatcher of defaming Britain

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

After keeping his counsel for a week, Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday joined other prominent members of the Labour Party in reproving the Prime Minister for parading domestic political differences before her audiences in south-east Asia.

Such was her "clumsy arrogance," he said, that Mrs Thatcher was using her tour to advertise the problems and deepen hostilities she had created.

"If travelling is supposed to broaden the mind, it obviously is not working with Mrs Thatcher," Mr Kinnock said.

"As she skids around south-east Asia like a ball on a pin table, she merely parades her prejudices and defames her own people."

No wonder she had become the Prime Minister who went just about anywhere in the world and almost nowhere in her own country.

Mr Kinnock, who was speaking in Cardiff, said Mrs Thatcher did not show the flag but waved dirty linen. "She is not boosting Britain but bashing Britain from a safe distance."

"Mrs Thatcher sees herself as a sort of commercial traveller. That is the excuse for her trip. But success, like charity, begins at home: if she will get interest rates down, promote growth policies, provide proper support for research and training, help to get manufacturing investment back even to its 1979

levels, Britain will make it and Britain will sell it."

Mr Denis Healey joined in the fray with even more abandon at a meeting in Leeds last night. "Mrs Thatcher goes straight into the Guinness Book of records, for travelling round the world in just over a week with her foot never out of her mouth," Rhoda the rhino had never had a more ruinous rampage.

The Prime Minister had spent most of her time gloating to foreigners about what she saw as her humiliation of British trade unionists.

Mr Healey noted that the Prime Minister's handling of foreign policy was bizarre. She had "complimented the Indonesian dictator" on his handling of Malaysia.

"No wonder the Malaysian prime minister told her he puts the Commonwealth at the bottom of his list."

Mr Healey noted that the Prime Minister committed herself to inflation "when her Chancellor says inflation will be twice as high this summer and her beloved money supply is already out of control. If that means anything it means yet another squeeze, with higher interest rates and the dole queues lengthening even faster."

Reagan's interview upsets Tass

Moscow (Reuters) - Tass

yesterday accused the Reagan Administration of distorting and falsifying facts to hide its unwillingness to improve relations. It was commenting on an interview in yesterday's edition of *The Times* in which President Reagan accused Moscow of trying to drive a wedge between the US and Europe.

It added that Mr Reagan had ignored Moscow's call to take a sensible stance on the Soviet medium-range missiles moratorium announced on Sunday. Washington has dismissed the freeze as inadequate.

Sakharov ultimatum to Academy

By Iain Elliot

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the leading advocate of human rights in the Soviet Union, will resign from the Soviet Academy of Sciences, cutting his last link with the establishment, unless his fellow academicians give him and his wife, Elena Bonner, greater support by May 10.

The couple live in almost complete isolation; last year she too was exiled to Gorky, 250 miles east of Moscow, an closed to foreigners. Recently she had emergency medical treatment for a heart condition, according to reports reaching Mr Yefrem Yankelevich, one of the organizers of this week's International Sakharov Hearing in London.

Mr Yankelevich, a Soviet dissident who emigrated to the United States in 1977, is the husband of Tatiana, Mrs Bonner's daughter by her first marriage. He says that Dr Sakharov's threat to resign could only be an act of last resort to save his wife's life by securing special treatment, if necessary abroad.

Dr Sakharov, now 63, became an academician at 32 because of his work on the hydrogen bomb. His threat to resign puts considerable pressure on the Soviet leadership.

On Thursday evening, after Soviet dissidents and Western experts had concluded their testimony to the London Sakharov Hearing, the international panel issued a resolution calling on participants of next month's Ottawa conference of the 35 states which signed the 1975 Helsinki accords to seek a reversal of the "deplorable trend in Soviet human rights policies" since the late 1970s. The panel also urged the restoration of the Sakharov's rights.

Tribute by Howe to slain priest

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Sir Geoffrey Howe last night paid homage at the grave of the pro-Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszka, only hours after urging General Jaruzelski to free political prisoners in Poland.

After a reception at the residence of the British Ambassador, where he met Solidarity advisers, including Professor Bronislaw Geremek, Mr Janusz Onyszkiewicz.

Sir Geoffrey slipped out of the crowd and was driven to the church of St Stanislaw Kostka, in the north of the capital.

Some ministers invited to the reception did not appear, seemingly because they objected to the presence of representatives of the outlawed Solidarity trade union.

But the authorities did not impede the Foreign Secretary as he wended his way through the mountain of wreaths and Solidarity banners that adorn the grave of the priest, who was murdered by secret policemen.

Some opposition sources in Warsaw speculated that a member of the Foreign Secretary's entourage might meet Mr Lech Walesa, chairman of Solidarity, but diplomats firmly denied this possibility.

At the meeting with General Jaruzelski, which lasted an unusual 2½ hours Sir Geoffrey raised specific cases of abuses of human rights as well as discussing the arms control position of Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

The case of a number of activists awaiting trial in Gdansk, including a leading dissident, Mr Adam Michnik, was raised by the Foreign Secretary, General Jaruzelski, according to sources, replied that he wanted no political prisoners in Poland. However, he did not raise the prospect of an amnesty and spoke only broadly about strengthening democracy in his country.

The talks were said to have been candid and without aggression, although the Polish leader sharply criticized western sanctions against Poland.

Human rights have emerged as a central theme in the Foreign Secretary's tour of East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland. The official Polish view of Sir Geoffrey's visit was eloquently expressed by the censor, who deleted key phrases about human rights from the published version of his Thursday banquet speech. A reference to his anxiety about reports of a tougher line in Warsaw was chopped out of all newspapers.

Yesterday Sir Geoffrey met Mr Jozef Czerwinski, a Politburo member sometimes tipped as a successor to General Jaruzelski as party chief. Sir Geoffrey raised his concern about human rights and Western fears that Poland would crack down further on Solidarity activists.

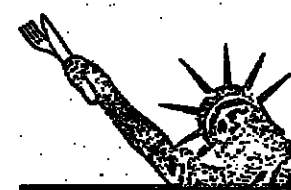
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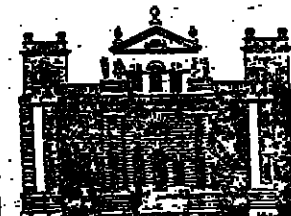
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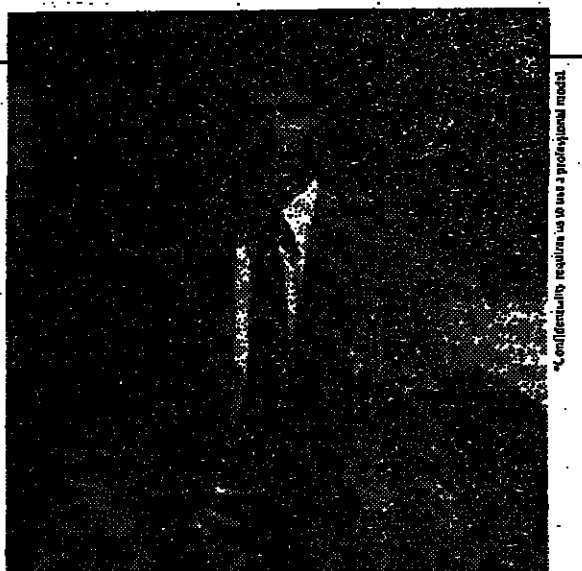


Stately homes under siege
3-part series on Britain's heritage



The couple who met in Belsen
A love story from the holocaust

Matters of public concern
Reforming the House of Lords



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FREEPHONE 100

BP wins right to drill in Dorset despite protests from conservationists

By John Young and Jonathan Davis

Environmental groups expressed unanimous dismay at yesterday's decision by Dorset County Council's planning sub-committee to allow BP to drill for oil on Furzey Island, in Poole harbour.

The Nature Conservancy Council and the National Trust have asked Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the environment, to "call in" BP's application for his own decision.

Furzey Island is on the Wytch Farm field discovered in 1973. It is the largest onshore oil discovery in Britain. Its estimated recoverable reserves are at least 300 million barrels, and it is so far the only onshore field to compare in size with any of the North Sea fields.

Part of the field lies under the Dorset mainland, but a large part of the two reservoirs stretch out under Poole harbour, and also into the Channel.

Present production is about 6,000 barrels a day, and BP's aim is to increase that to at least 40,000 barrels a day by the late 1980s. It plans to spend more than £200 million on the development.

However, objectors to the scheme have 21 days in which to appeal against the decision. Mr Angus Stirling, director general of the National Trust, which owns nearby Brownsea Island, said last night: "We are not satisfied that the consequences of oil drilling and extraction in this area have been adequately tested and subjected to independent scrutiny."

"We remain unconvinced by the argument by BP that drilling in this highly sensitive area will have no adverse effects."

Friends of the Earth said the decision meant that any location in the south of England could now face oil or gas exploration with little or no regard to its environmental importance.



Mr Jenkin: Asked to rule on the decision.

The group had written to Mr Jenkin asking for a public inquiry, and would also be making a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman over the way that the county council had dealt with its objections.

Mr Kneale Johnson, BP's project director for Wytch Farm, said after yesterday's decision: "We are very pleased to have obtained this permission. It is obviously an important milestone in the life of the oil field, and will enable us to press ahead with the entire scheme."

BP said it was particularly encouraged that the decision had been reached by a 19 to 3 majority.

The 34 conditions attached by the council to yesterday's approval will not cause any unexpected delays to the development, BP said, although the timetable for developing the field to its full potential assumes less rapid progress than the oil companies had originally intended.

The council has told BP it does not want final detailed plans for the whole field's development to be submitted until it has had time to monitor

the first appraisal drilling on Furzey Island.

The oil companies have still to reach a final decision on how to ship the extra oil production out of the area. BP has been examining schemes to build a pipeline to the naval harbour at Portland, as well as a plan to use specially built flat-bottom tankers to ship the oil out through the narrow waters of Poole harbour.

If the application is not called in BP hopes to start building a slipway on the island and clearing its drilling sites by early summer. The first drilling is unlikely to start until December.

One of the conditions stipulated by the council is that the construction work can be carried out only during daylight hours on weekdays.

The increasing volume of onshore oil exploration is likely to be given further impetus when the Department of Energy announces a new onshore licensing regime, which will cover the whole country.

The council's decision may have been influenced by the fact that, according to Mr Alan Swindall, the county planning officer, the Countryside Commission had raised no objection to BP's plans.

It had added that the environmental impact was likely to be insignificant, apart from the threat of a blow-out during drilling, which the Department of Energy considered "highly unlikely."

But last night the commission appeared partially to contradict Mr Swindall's statement by calling for a public inquiry to examine the environmental implications.

The commission acknowledged that the immediate consequences of the council's approval of the well were unlikely to be severe. But it was concerned about the longer term proposals for a 10-fold increase in oil production in the Purbeck area.



An officer cadet who won a personal battle against cancer, yesterday received her commission in the British Army from the Queen.

Lieutenant Therese Nation, aged 21, (far right) was one of 430 officer cadets who passed out at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. It was the first time in 20 years that the Queen had taken the Sovereign's Parade.

Lieutenant Nation, the daughter of a sub-postmaster from Bridgwater, Somerset,

contracted stomach cancer, while studying for her A levels. She kept it from all but her closest family and, after two serious operations, was pronounced cured.

When she applied to join the Women's Royal Army Corps last year she told them they had her medical record but was passed fit and entered Sandhurst.

After marching off the parade ground Lieutenant Nation said: "I'm delighted to have finished the course. Today has been really wonderful."

Pollution tests at Sellafield

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Pollution dispersion tests will begin in Cumbria next week in the latest stage of research by scientists from the Meteorological Office.

They are assembling maps of Britain, which show how industrial pollutants or infectious windborne agents, such as that causing animal disease similar to foot and mouth,

could be spread depending on landscape and the prevailing weather conditions.

The trials next week will start with the release from a 200ft chimney with small amounts of an unusual gaseous compound called sulphur hexafluoride, which provides a tracer substance that can be monitored over distances of many miles.

The highest chimney for the work in Cumbria is on the Sellafield nuclear fuel reprocessing site of British Nuclear Fuels.

The experiments are conducted by a team of meteorologists known as the Boundary Layer Research Group of the Meteorological Office, at Bracknell, Berkshire.

Miners' strike aftermath

Threats prevent Kent men from working

By Richard Dowden

Many of the Kent miners who worked during the strike are now unable to work because of intimidation by their colleagues and are either staying off "sick" or have applied for transfer or redundancy.

One miner who worked during the strike said that 85 per cent of those who had broken the strike in the Kent colliery were staying away but a coal board spokesman said the figure had dropped from 50 per cent in the days after the return to work five weeks ago to about 25 per cent.

The miner, who did not wish to be named, said that he and others who worked during the strike were subjected to constant verbal abuse, threatened, jostled and obstructed. The men's children were also abused and one child of a former working miner was recently knocked unconscious in the street.

The miner, a young man of more than five years' employment at Tilmanstone colliery, who was one of 23 there who went back to work, said he preferred not to give his name, because he would be attacked

by militants and identified as a troublemaker by management.

"I feel betrayed by the coal board. They just hope the problem will go away. They don't even bother to record incidents reported to them any more. The militants now know they can get away with it."

The local CID had given him a direct police telephone number so that he could report incidents inside the colliery as well as outside.

"Now you've done your bit for them they will not do their bit for you. They don't want to know any more." Last week he had seen a miner, who had worked during the strike and who is due to appear as a criminal damage case on Monday being openly threatened by colleagues. He had reported their names but nothing had been done.

Now that some of the intimidation had come to the notice of the coal board at national level the local management would be forced to do something.

"This is phase II of Scargill's struggle. When he said there would be guerrilla war he meant the war to be against working

miners to drive them out of the industry so that when he calls another strike everyone will come out."

Mr Jack Collins, of the Kent National Union of Mineworkers, denied there was intimidation.

A coal board spokesman said there had been frequent delays in reporting incidents and it was very difficult to get witnesses. Each incident was investigated and reported to the colliery manager but not to the police. The incident involving Mr Don Dixon last Wednesday when Mr Dixon was allegedly hit on the head with a hammer while in the cage at Tilmanstone had not been reported to the colliery officials for a week although it had been reported to the police

and had appeared in the Press before then.

To date no one had been suspended or dismissed for intimidation in the Kent colliery.

Mrs Irene McGibbon, who founded the working wives' return to work campaign last year, said that at Belshanger Colliery where her husband Robert works, all those who had broken the strike had to work on the surface and follow a different shift pattern so that they did not meet the other miners.

The local coal board spokesman asked what more could be done and said supervisors could not be with the men "every moment of the day".

elsewhere. The association is expected to announce the results of a two-week recruiting drive today.

After a meeting last night to draw up rules, one of the leaders, Mr Robert Skelton, said support was growing. More than 500 men had this week asked the coal board to stop deducting NUM dues from their wages.

The Durham-based Colliery Trade and Allied Workers Association, set up by men expelled from the NUM for working during the strike, is said to be interesting miners

certain subjects in the new examinations will lead to control of the curriculum. Parents will assume these are the subjects their children should be studying."

Mr Gordon Mullis, of Wakefield, said he thought the danger was not confined to one political party and regardless of which party governed "we are still going to be under increasing State control. The essential autonomy of the teaching profession is being undermined."

Mr Robert Griffiths, of Loughborough, questioned the assumption that the traditional partnership was durable. He cited the case of Mr Ray Honeyford, the Bradford headmaster suspended for publishing opinions unpopular with his education authority.

"We are in danger from this the value of the information to Parliament and the public."

He changed his mind later in the year and decided because of public interest to give a complete local authority by authority breakdown.

It showed that the pupil-teacher ratios bore little relation to what was happening in the schools. In 1983, some 23.5 per cent of primary pupils and 11.4 per cent of secondary were being taught in classes of between 30 and 35 children. Some 2.9 per cent primary and 0.5 per cent secondary in classes of between 36 and 40, and 0.2 per cent primary and 0.1 per cent secondary in classes of more than 40.

In percentage terms those

figures do not appear dramatic. But in reality they mean that in 1983 1.4 million children were in classes of more than 30 pupils and more than 100,000 primary and nearly 20,000 secondary pupils were in classes of 36 or more.

In Birmingham, for example, one of the authorities with the highest pupil-teacher ratios, 41,000 primary pupils and more than 14,000 secondary pupils were in classes of more than 30.

A National Union of Teachers spokesman said last night: "In a primary school a child is unlikely to get more than eight minutes of individual attention a day with a class size of 30 to 35. And such a size is quite common."

The union's policy is that no

Labour puts stop to contrived by-elections

By Hugh Clayton
Local Government Correspondent

Labour members of county councils which the Government wants to abolish next year, have dropped their plan to resign and force by-elections next month.

"There will be no contrived by-elections," Mr John Gunnell, Labour leader of West Yorkshire County Council and spokesman for the other five threatened county councils, said yesterday.

Members had responded to a decision of the national executive of the Labour Party that they should stay in office. Some had intended to resign as a protest against the Government's cancellation of elections that were due next month, he said. Those members had decided that they had no right to accept an extended term of office when they had been elected in 1981 for four years.

Elections will be held on May 2 in all English counties, except those which the Government wants to abolish on March 31 next year.

There are more than 20 million voters in the counties where elections are to be held, and 18 million in the metropolitan areas, including Greater London, where they have been cancelled.

Mr Gunnell said that some councillors had been reluctant to accept the decision of the national executive.

A few "naturally occurring" by-elections will be held in the threatened counties. There will be three in South Yorkshire on May 2, and dates have still to be fixed for a by-election in Greater Manchester and one in West Midlands.

Union seeks expulsion over 'poll rigging'

By Craig Seton

A West Midlands county councillor is being recommended for expulsion from the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers after a six-month investigation which concluded that ballot rigging took place during the election of a district president.

The recommendation to expel Mr Alec Taylor, a Labour councillor who was Acocks Green branch secretary and an election teller, will be considered by the union's national executive after a report from its Birmingham South district, which had ordered the investigation in the branch, one of 26 voted for a new, part-time district president.

The inquiry, by a "district referee", into the Acocks Green branch, concluded that 13 members who had purportedly voted for the left-wing candidate Mr Les Buron, a Labour member of Birmingham City Council, had not attended the branch that day and signatures of attendance had not been made by them.

Although Mr Buron polled 34 votes against two for the sitting president, Mr Bob Blakemore, a moderate, in the Acocks Green branch, Mr Blakemore won a 4 to one victory throughout the district. About 600 out of 12,000 members took part.

Mr Eric Hunt, Birmingham South district secretary, said that the Acocks Green votes had been "rigged" but added: "They would have made no difference to the result."

The district committee's recommendation now has to be confirmed by the executive council in London.

Disruption threat at BBC ends

The threat of further disruption to BBC television current affairs programme was lifted yesterday after journalists working at the Lime Grove Studios in London met their head of department for talks.

The journalists had a "useful and constructive" meeting with the current affairs head, Mr Peter Fagnamenta, after a number of reports were dismissed earlier this week.

After the BBC said the reporters' contracts would not be renewed, journalists staged a one-day strike on Tuesday which blacked-out *Newsnight* that evening and *Breakfast Time* the following morning.

● National Graphical Association print workers at the *Express* and *Star* newspaper in Wolverhampton yesterday unanimously rejected a management ultimatum to return to normal working on Monday or be dismissed.

The NGA members instead called for a negotiated settlement to the dispute, over the company introducing "single keying" in the classified advertisement department.

Prince accuses Sotheby's

A dispute is developing between Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and Sotheby's over a decision by the firm to hold its first Geneva sale of Islamic works of art on June 25, the day after the Swiss foreign minister is to open a loan exhibition of Islamic Art in the city.

The prince, who is chairman of the committee of honour, feels that a purely cultural event is being taken over.

In a letter to Mr Alfred Taubman, the American chairman of Sotheby's, he writes: "Though it would be illusory to believe that Sotheby's motives could be other than mercantile, I deeply resent the fact that an exceptional artistic and cultural event should be made to look as if it were part of a commercial enterprise."

"I am, therefore, compelled publicly to reiterate that the exhibition is an independent initiative."

The *Treasures of Islam* exhibition is drawn from both museum and private collections, such as that of Sheikh Nasser al-Sabah of Kuwait, and many of the items have never been shown in public.

● The auctioneers Bukowski took what could be a record for a painting by a female artist in a four-day sale which began on Tuesday in Stockholm. Helene Schjerfbeck, a Finnish-Swedish painter, is not well known outside Scandinavia, where she is well regarded. But a collector paid 1.7 million krona (£170,000) for her study of a convalescent girl dated 1927.

Correction

Mr Timothy Sainsbury MP was a backbencher during the debate on the Shop Hours Bill, introduced by Raymond Whitney MP in February 1983, and not an assistant whip until June 1983.

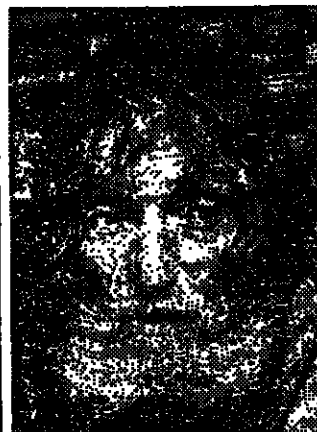
The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$25; Belgium 8 fr 50; Canada \$12; Denmark 12 kr 50; France 120 fr; Germany 12 DM; Greece 120 dr; Hong Kong \$12; India 12 rupees; Italy 120 lire; Japan 1200 yen; Korea 1200 won; Luxembourg 120 francs; Malaysia 120 ringgits; Mexico 120 pesos; Netherlands 120 guilders; New Zealand 120 dollars; Norway 120 kroner; Portugal 120 escudos; Singapore 120 dollars; South Africa 120 rand; Sweden 120 kronor; Switzerland 120 francs; Taiwan 120 dollars; Thailand 120 baht; United Kingdom 120 pence; USA 120 cents.

RUC man on killing charge

An RUC reserve constable was remanded on bail yesterday accused of the unlawful killing of a man shot dead during an abortive police attempt to arrest a banned Noraid leader during a Provisional Sinn Féin rally in west Belfast.

Nigel Hegarty, aged 27, who has been suspended from duty appeared at Belfast Magistrates' court to face the charge of unlawfully killing Sean Downes, aged 22, during a rally at Andersonstown last August.

Mr Downes died after being hit by a plastic bullet fired when police in riot gear moved into a crowd to detain Martin Galvin, publicity director of Noraid.



Mr Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield, has given a tramp, Mr Dennis Rough (above), shelter for the past week in a shed at the bottom of his garden at his home in Holland Park Avenue, west London.

Tory students 'shut down'

By Rupert Morris

Conservative Party Central Office has deprived the Federation of Conservative Students of office facilities, effectively closing it down. Mr Mark MacGregor, chairman elect, says in a letter received by Mr John Gummer, party chairman, yesterday.

Mr Gummer announced the suspension of funds to the federation last week pending an investigation into alleged vandalism at its conference in Loughborough, which prompted protests from the students and their right-wing libertarian sympathizers who saw it as a move inspired by "Heathite factions" within the federation and Central Office.

Mr MacGregor complains

Volunteers 'harming education'

By Mike Durham
of The Times Educational Supplement

Unpaid volunteers working alongside teachers in schools because of staff shortage are harming children's education, it was claimed at the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers conference in Torquay yesterday.

In one primary school, a grandmother helping with children's reading was found to be illiterate.

A proposal to instruct NAS/UWT members not to work with unpaid volunteers narrowly failed to win support.

Although parents' and teachers' concerns are at present concentrated on the pay dispute, the issue of class sizes also debated at this week's National Union of Teachers' conference is likely in the long term to prove more significant and cause more sustained disruption to schools.

Classes with too many pupils have long been a source of intense frustration for state school teachers, particularly as surveys repeatedly show that parents who send their children to private schools do so because of the smaller classes.

The frustration has become more intense during the past few years as Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has repeatedly and correctly boasted that the national average pupil-teacher ratios of 22.3 pupils to each teacher in primary schools and 16.5 in secondary schools are the best ever.

But, as teachers point out, pupil-teacher ratios take into account head teachers and deputy head teachers who may do little actual teaching and therefore the ratios bear little relation to class sizes. It is this that concerns teachers and parents.

Last year, Sir Keith Joseph was asked in Parliament to give statistics on class sizes but refused to do so because it would have cost more than £200 (the limit above which ministers have to judge whether the cost is disproportionate to

Teachers fear Government domination

By Bert Lodge, of The Times Educational Supplement

Increasing control of the educational service by central government was condemned yesterday at the annual conference in Folkestone of the third largest teacher union, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, which has 95,000 members.

Mr David Evans, of Hartlepool, said the Government no longer believed in the traditional partnership with local authorities. It sought to dominate the education system, he said. Sir Keith Joseph, thinks the back steps with him."

Not only was the Government interfering in the composition of school governing bodies, student loans and the present teachers' pay dispute, but it was trying to dictate what was taught.

"The introduction of distinction and merit certificates for

Government but we are in greater danger from some local authorities," he said.

● The Labour Party is to publish a radical "bill of rights" for Britain's schools, its spokesman on education Mr Giles Radice, announced yesterday.

He also gave a warning that unless a just settlement was reached in the teachers' pay dispute, the issue would bring annual rounds of disruption.

Mr Radice said Labour's education charter will be published next week. Parents and pupils would have new "educational rights" including pre-school education, classes small enough to ensure that each pupil received individual attention, and the right for parents to be fully informed and involved in their children's schooling.

Mr Robert Griffiths, of Loughborough, questioned the assumption that the traditional partnership was durable. He cited the case of Mr Ray Honeyford, the Bradford headmaster suspended for publishing opinions unpopular with his education authority.

"We are in danger from this

the value of the information to Parliament and the public."

He changed his mind later in the year and decided because of public interest to give a complete local authority by authority breakdown.

It showed that the pupil-teacher ratios bore little relation to what was happening in the schools. In 1983, some 23.5 per cent of primary pupils and 11.4 per cent of secondary were being taught in classes of between 30 and 35 children. Some 2.9 per cent primary and 0.5 per cent secondary in classes of between 36 and 40, and 0.2 per cent primary and 0.1 per cent secondary in classes of more than 40.

In percentage terms those

figures do not appear dramatic. But in reality they mean that in 1983 1.4 million children were in classes of more than 30 pupils and more than 100,000 primary and nearly 20,000 secondary pupils were in classes of 36 or more.

In Birmingham, for example, one of the authorities with the highest pupil-teacher ratios, 41,000 primary pupils and more than 14,000 secondary pupils were in classes of more than 30.

A National Union of Teachers spokesman said last night: "In a primary school a child is unlikely to get more than eight minutes of individual attention a day with a class size of 30 to 35. And such a size is quite common."

The union's policy is that no

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Bank of Scotland Base Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that, with effect from 15th April, 1985 its Base Rate will be decreased from 13.25% per annum to 13.00% per annum

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A FRIEND FOR LIFE

More babies risk catching Aids from blood transfusions, inquest told

The father of a baby aged 21 months who died after contracting Aids was led weeping from a London inquest yesterday as the coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

After Mr Gerald Thorpe left St Pancras coroners' court, Dr Douglas Chambers said that he would write to the chief medical officer at the Department of Health to say that similar deaths ought to be prevented.

Dr Chambers was speaking after hearing how Antony Thorpe had died from pneumonia at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. He received blood transfusions in the United States after complications following his birth 26 weeks into the pregnancy. He weighed 900 grams.

The inquest was told that more babies in Britain were likely to contract Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), in spite of tighter screening of blood used in transfusions than was the case in the United States.

But, Dr Roland Levinsky, consultant paediatric immunologist at Great Ormond Street, said the risks of catching the disease through blood transfusions in Britain were "really very, very minimal". "I can't see there would be anything to make parents worry."

The inquest was told that after birth Antony Thorpe developed several complications, including a heart complaint which necessitated being put on a ventilator for nine weeks and multiple blood transfusions and then surgery. He became blind. It is believed he was injected with the Aids virus then.

The transfusions were given at a hospital at Washington DC, where he was born. That is standard practice in the United

States for premature babies the inquest was told.

The boy was admitted to a hospital in England on his return, and which did not respond to the usual treatment and placed in an infectious diseases ward, 21 days ago.

After further tests, Aids was diagnosed. Dr Vicki Papadopoulos, registrar in infectious diseases, said: "He was initially very stable, but very ill. Gradually over the next two weeks he became very ill despite medical management. He did not respond to medical treatment and eventually he succumbed."

The boy died on Wednesday night. He weighed scarcely 2lbs. Dr Levinsky told the inquest that other cases of children contracting Aids would occur. "But I hope that there isn't as much publicity as this case has had because, from the parents' point of view the devastating loss of a child has given them a lot to put up with and the publicity is more than they can cope with."

Mr Thorpe was taken from the court room in tears after he gave a brief formal identification of his son. His address was kept secret.

The coroner said the baby's unnatural death was as a result

of an infected blood transfusion. "He was suffering from Aids, which has acquired a certain notoriety."

"What we have here, I'm afraid, are rather rare circumstances, but not so rare, of somebody dying because of an infusion of blood given for perfectly proper reasons and the child died of the consequences thereof," Dr Chambers said.

The parents were rushed into a waiting car and shielded from photographers by court officers. Mrs Thorpe arrived and left with her husband, but was not at the hearing.

● Fear of Aids should not stop people having blood transfusions, the Department of Health said yesterday. "The chances of contracting Aids through a normal blood transfusion are extremely remote. If you need a blood transfusion, go ahead and have it."

It was pointed out that Antony Thorpe received blood transfusions in the United States, where donors are paid to give blood. This system attracts down-and-out drug addicts who have been contaminated with Aids.

The department said that there was no indication that blood supplies in Britain were affected.

We cannot guarantee it absolutely and that is why we are looking at methods of testing blood donations."

● In the United States, 109 children under 13 are reported to have contracted Aids, and 72 have died. Most were born to women with Aids, but some received contaminated blood transfusions.

Three babies died in Australia last November after receiving contaminated blood.

The biggest international conference on Aids is next week in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr Thorpe after the inquest

Doctor 'did not examine' child's burns

The mother of a girl aged three who died from burns, told an inquest yesterday that when she rushed her daughter to a hospital 100 yards away she found the child's body unit closed because of health care. She also claimed at Southwark coroners' court that the doctor who attended did not examine her daughter.

Mrs Sandra Everest, of Brimsdown House, Devas Street, Bow, east London, said that she was ushered into the telephone exchange before being taken some time later to

Guy's Hospital, five miles away, where her daughter, Charlotte, died 10 days later.

Mr Montague Levine, the coroner, adjourned the hearing to a date to be fixed when he was told that the doctor was not in court.

Mrs Everest said that her daughter was burnt in a fire at their home on February 10. She rushed her to St Andrews Hospital, Bow.

When she arrived at the porter's lodge she was told by a man to go into the telephone

exchange while a nurse and doctor were called.

"The doctor didn't come until five minutes later," she said. "The sister said: 'Call an ambulance'. The doctor didn't examine the child or undress her. The doctor said: 'Wrap the child up in a sheet'."

Mrs Everest said that her daughter's legs and face were covered in burns.

Mr Harold Ragot-Levy, her solicitor, told the coroner that the unit was closed because of health cuts on November 22 last year.

BBC helps parents with maths

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent
Innumerate parents who have shied away from helping their children with mathematics or home microcomputers are to be offered a solution by the BBC. A mathematics program to assist in understanding and teaching mathematics is to go on sale in the high street this month, at about the same time as a new microcomputers television series for parents is to be screened.

The launch of the program is a big departure by the corporation as for the first time it will not only be available for use on the BBC's microcomputer but on its principal rivals - the Acorn Electron, the Sinclair Spectrum and the Commodore.

The computer software pack, called "Maths with a Story", will retail for about £10. A family teaching guide to accompany the software will be on sale from next month. A second software pack on mathematics is to be launched in the autumn.

The television series, *The Learning Machine* which will assist parents who have problems with computers will be launched late this month.

According to the BBC: "The world of microcomputers can be confusing for those parents who have bought their children a micro in the hope that they can use it either to learn computing or as an aid to their normal school work. This new series of six programmes shows parents how they can get more from their micros at home and informs them of progress being made within schools."

● IBM, the US computer company is to expand its factory in Greenock, Scotland. The announcement comes shortly after an EEC-sponsored report criticised the dominant position of non-British multinationals, particularly the US companies, in the Scottish electronics sector.

The company employs 2,800 people at Greenock.



Mr Watson and his daughter Clare feeding the heron at their home in Dagenham, east London. (Photograph: John Manning)

Conservationists care for chemical spillage victim

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Mr Barry Watson, a conservation specialist, has been feeding a heron in his home since Friday of last week, after a chemical spillage that is endangering wildlife. Thousands of fish along a 15-mile stretch of the river Roding, in Essex, have been killed. The incident had happened at the start of the spring "eel run", when the eels spawned in the Sargasso sea migrate to the inland waters and are coming up the river.

Mr Watson, of the London Wildlife Trust, and his daughter Clare, aged 16, have been caring for the heron at their home in Dagenham. Mr Watson said that the bird was very hungry and was too weak to find a fresh feeding territory. A heron loses weight rapidly if it misses one day's food. In 48 hours a bird could lose four to six ounces and become too weak to move, he said.

The heron needs the atten-

tion of both Mr Watson and his daughter because it will not feed itself in captivity. But as it has a wingspan of about four feet, it is not easy to hold and force-feed with pieces of eel obtained from the fishmonger.

The spillage happened when a lorry shed drums containing an insecticide called Darsban on the M11 motorway, north of Romford, where it crosses the river Roding. The active ingredient causing the damage was chlorpyrifos, which, the manufacturers said, was very toxic to fish.

Chlorpyrifos is poisonous to trout in concentrations of one part in one thousand million. When the material first trickled into the Roding via surface drainage culverts, the amounts in the upper reaches of the river were 1,000 times above the poison level.

The agent was in transit from a factory at Kings Lynn to Sheerness for export to Austria.

11,000-volt shock for intruder

Nigel Steadman, aged 18, of Wolverhampton, survived an 11,000 volt shock when he tried to steal equipment from an electricity sub-station, a court was told yesterday.

"He's the luckiest man walking on the face of the earth," Det Constable Philip Sefton-Jones told Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Steadman, of Kingsley Place, Bilston who admitted entering the sub-station with intent to steal and also damaging Midlands Electricity Board property, was ordered to do 100 hours community service.

Open verdict on vicar after petrol blaze

An open verdict has been recorded on a vicar whose burning body was found beside an unlit bonfire and next to a blazing petrol can.

The Rev John Smith, aged 60, of St Anne's Church, Church Road, Bagshot, Surrey, was found in his garden after he told his wife he was going to mow the lawn, an inquest at Chertsey was told on Tuesday.

Two notes hinting at suicide were found in his study, but the Surrey coroner, Colonel George McEwan, said it was possible the notes were part of a sermon Mr Smith was preparing.

His wife, Rose, said that on the day he died her husband appeared "perfectly happy and cheerful".

Fourth charge in siege case

John Hoods, aged 25, of Watcroft Square, Hammonds, west London, appeared at Highgate Magistrates' Court yesterday, charged with three others in connection with an armed siege at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch. The four were remanded in custody until April 19.

Starks had pleaded guilty to possessing a dead song thrush and possessing a badger's skull.

Hull was sentenced to three months' youth custody and Starks to three months at a detention centre. They were both ordered to pay £100 costs to the RSPCA.

Mr Sean Egan, for the defence said: "Mr Starks did not intend to kill them. They had also pleaded guilty to theft of a buzzard, possessing a buzzard,

possessing a dead song thrush and possessing a badger's skull.

Starks had pleaded guilty to having a shotgun without a firearms certificate.

Hull was sentenced to three months' youth custody and Starks to three months at a detention centre. They were both ordered to pay £100 costs to the RSPCA.

Mr Sean Egan, for the defence said: "Mr Starks did not intend to kill them. They had also pleaded guilty to theft of a buzzard, possessing a buzzard,



Classical rock: Yehudi Menuhin playing the huge Folkestone rock presented to him yesterday by some of the 48 finalists in the Orion Insurance International Violin Competition that started yesterday in Folkestone and ends next Saturday. The violinists, who are all under 20 and represent 16 countries, were welcomed to London yesterday at the Royal Festival Hall. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Pressure grows for family court

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Moves to set up a family court are gathering momentum with the decision by a review committee of officials from the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Home Office to publish a paper later this year exploring options for the court and its expected costs.

Advocates of a family court say it will be less costly than the present system, offer a better chance of conciliation, and benefit individuals by building up expertise in the provision of welfare, the conduct of proceedings and the conduct of lawyers appearing before it.

The paper will examine the possible functions of the court, its staffing, accommodation, location, the judiciary, availability of legal aid, advice and assistance, and relationships with the welfare services.

This weekend the Law Society launches a campaign for a family court, with a conference, planned for next month, which will bring together 70 representatives from legal, political, social work and religious organizations, MPs and the judiciary.

Apart from wishing to streamline the system, one of the aims of the society is to

Man jailed for £11,000 path fraud

A man who deceived an elderly spinster into paying £11,000, her life savings, for laying a gravel path to her bungalow, was jailed for two years at Oxford Crown Court yesterday.

Michael Joyce, of the Slade Caravan Park, Headington, Oxford, was found guilty of obtaining money by deception from Miss Millicent Powell, aged 66, of Cane Lane, Grove, Oxfordshire. He was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation.

Strangle marks on dead boy

Wayne Keeton, aged 10, whose body was found in 2½ft of water under a bridge on the river Len at Nottingham on Sunday, had a chest injury and strangulation marks, a pathologist said at an inquest which was opened and adjourned yesterday.

The boy, of Goshland Close, Bestwood Park Estate, Nottingham, was dying, if not already dead, when he went into the river several days earlier, Dr Stephen Jones, a Home Office pathologist, told the coroner.

'Minder' actor's son chased necklace thief

The wife of George Cole, the actor in the television series *Minder*, told a court yesterday that their son Toby, aged 13, chased a thief after she was robbed in Oxford Street.

Mrs Penny Cole, aged 47, was giving evidence at Knightsbridge Crown Court where Joseph Williams, aged 26, a trainee shipping manager of Honeywell Road, Clapham, south London, has denied robbing her of a gold necklace.

Her son told the court that he had failed to pick out the assailant at an informal identity parade.

Mr Richard Evans, a record promoter of Boscombe Road, Shepherd's Bush, west London, said he had joined in the chase and picked out the man at an informal identity parade three weeks later.

But Mr Williams' employer, Mr Alistair Rolston-Saul, of Clapham Gold and Silversmiths, told the court he telephoned him at home between 4.30 and 4.30 pm on the day of the robbery. Earlier Mrs Cole had said the incident happened between 3.45 and 4 pm.

The case was adjourned until Monday.

Tax protester faces jail

A pacifist who refuses to pay £109.05 to the inland revenue because the money might be spent on arms faces a 21-day prison sentence.

Mr Arthur Windsor, aged 67, a former librarian, who says he has a moral right to insist that his taxes are not spent on armaments, told Judge Braithwaite at Gloucester County Court: "We want to see a change in the law to allow us to say that we want our money used for peaceful purposes."

"In the meanwhile those of

us whose consciences are severely disturbed must do something to protest."

The judge, gave him 21 days to pay.

Mr Windsor, of Brunswick Square, Gloucester, said that he had abandoned plans to appeal further.

The Inland Revenue has a court order enjoining him to enter his home and seize property. They have already done so twice, on the first occasion seizing his car which was sold at auction to settle an earlier debt.

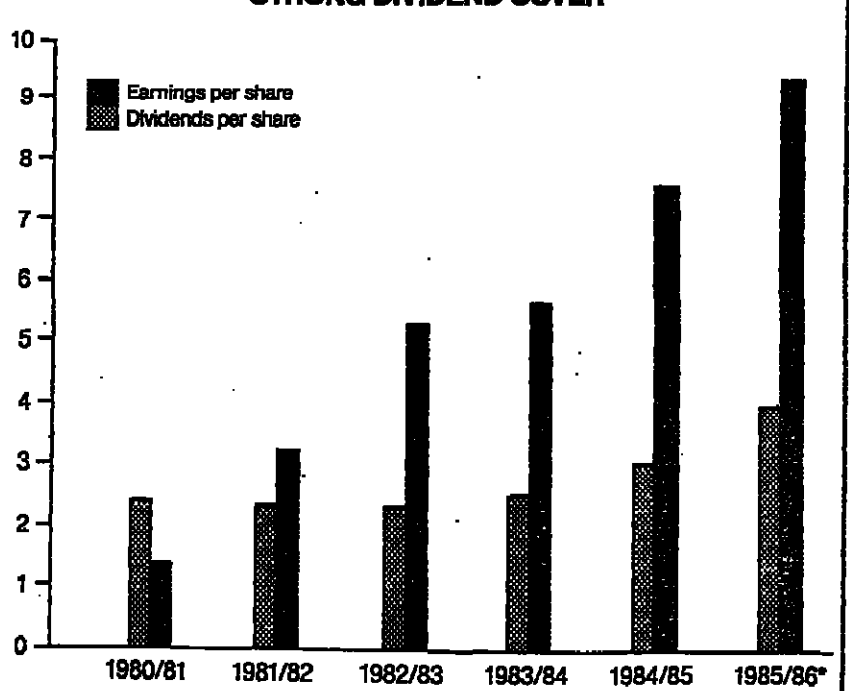
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Bird protection protest

By Tony Samstag
Proposals to remove legal protection from four bird species and place them on the "quarry list" have been deplored by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Bill before Parliament, curlew, redshank, Brent geese and barnacle geese, all protected by the existing Act, would become fair game.

Mr Richard Porter, head of

species protection for the RSPB, said yesterday: "We are international custodians for the barnacle and dark-bellied geese, which winter in British estuaries. The birds could well be driven inland by hunting pressures. The rare whimbrel was, moreover, easily mistaken for curlew."

● A ban on the docking of dogs' tails was inevitable, the British Small Animal Veterinary Association announced at its annual congress in London.

Badger baiters sentenced

Two teenage badger baiters were given custodial sentences yesterday by a Croydon magistrate who described their activities as grisly and callous.

Mark Starks, aged 19, a labourer, and Andrew Hull, aged 18, unemployed, both from Old Coulsdon, had previously admitted using spotlights to dazzle badgers in Happy Valley Woods, Coulsdon and setting further dogs on them to kill them. They had also pleaded guilty to theft of a buzzard, possessing a buzzard,

possessing a dead song thrush and possessing a badger's skull.

Hull was sentenced to three months' youth custody and Starks to three months at a detention centre. They were both ordered to pay £100 costs to the RSPCA.

Mr Sean Egan, for the defence said: "Mr Starks did not intend to kill them. They had also pleaded guilty to theft of a buzzard, possessing a buzzard,

possessing a dead song thrush and possessing a badger's skull.

Union seeks expulsion over 'poll rigging'

Disruption threat at BBC ends

Prince accuses Sathieby

Brittan rejects criticism that Government is too strict over immigration

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

About 333,000 wives and children of immigrants already in the United Kingdom had been admitted for settlement during the past decade, Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, said yesterday.

The number of applicants in the Indian sub-continent seeking to settle in the United Kingdom exceeded the capacity to deal with the applications, he told the annual conference of the United Kingdom Immigration Advisory Service (UKIAS) in Manchester.

The queue of people awaiting a decision on their case for immediate settlement, had been practically halved, from 37,000 in 1979 to 19,000 at the end of last year. But in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the number of applications was higher in 1983 and 1984 than in the previous peak year of 1979.

Mr Brittan was answering a criticism, made by the Commission for Racial Equality in a recent report on immigration control procedures, that the Government was too control-minded. He said that there were now 19,000 Vietnamese refugees in Britain, and the Government had "continuing commitments in respect of family reunions and boat rescue."

Its policy was "the objective pursued by successive governments, firm but fair immigration control in recognition of the fact that we could not possibly accept all those who want to come here."

The commission's report, and the annual report of the UKIAS, were "critical of the general attitude and approach of immigration officials," Mr Brittan said. New elements of race relations training were to be introduced for all immi-

Doctors are prescribing blacklisted drugs

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

General practitioners are being told by the British Medical Association how they can prescribe drugs blacklisted by the government.

Guidelines being distributed by the association advise family doctors that the generic formula of any product may be prescribed.

"If there is no generic equivalent of the banned product, the chemist has to dispense it and is entitled to be paid the normal fee," the association said yesterday.

There is wide evidence that many doctors are prescribing such drugs in spite of the ban, which is intended to cut the cost of NHS prescriptions by £100 million a year.

"We are not exploiting a loophole. We warned the Department of Health that this problem area existed," the association said yesterday. "The way round it would have been to introduce generic prescribing across the board."

"We are trying to help doctors get round the problem of wanting to prescribe a drug that is best for the patient."

Among the blacklisted products being prescribed and dispensed are pain-killers such as Distalgic, DF 118 and Solpadeine.

Mr Ronald Wing, president of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, said at its annual dinner on Thursday: "The limited list has only one justification, to save money, and it will singularly fail to achieve any semblance of the savings expected of it."

Court ruling stuns America

Rape case man back in jail after judge rejects retraction

From Trevor Fishlock New York

Americans were astonished yesterday by the latest twist in the curious story of Gary Dotson, jailed six years ago for rape. Last week, he was released from prison after the woman he was alleged to have raped announced that she had invented the attack.

Mr Dotson, who had been given a 25 to 50 years sentence, was reunited with his overjoyed mother and sisters. He said he bore no bitterness towards the woman and was grateful that she had retracted.

Mr Dotson, aged 28, is now back in prison. A judge at Markham, Illinois, refused to overturn his conviction, describing the recantation as unreliable.

Mr Dotson banged his fists on the table in front of him, and his family wept, as Judge Richard Samuels, who had also presided at the original trial, announced his ruling.

Mrs Cathleen Webb, who claimed at the trial in 1979 that Mr Dotson had raped her, was led from the court in tears. "He is innocent," she said. "I lied in 1979."

Mrs Webb said in court last week that she had invented the rape story because she feared she might have become pregnant after having had sex with her boyfriend. She was 16 at the time. She did not want her foster parents to know of the affair and scratched herself and tore her clothing before reporting that she had been attacked in the back of a car.

She picked out Mr Dotson from photographs in police files. Mrs Webb, now married with two children, said last

week that her religious beliefs had made her come forward.

But, refusing Mr Dotson's petition to quash the conviction, Judge Samuels said that in 1979 he and the jury had been convinced by Mrs Webb's "clear" evidence. He also cited court precedents requiring strong corroboration for recantations.

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He added: "I don't know why Cathy Webb got up on the stand and told what she did. That's only known to her."

Tears of frustration: Mrs Webb leaving the court in Markham, Illinois, insisting that Mr Dotson is innocent.

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Mr Dotson, who had been given a 25 to 50 years sentence, was reunited with his overjoyed mother and sisters. He said he bore no bitterness towards the woman and was grateful that she had retracted.

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Mrs Webb said in court last week that she had invented the rape story because she feared she might have become pregnant after having had sex with her boyfriend. She was 16 at the time. She did not want her foster parents to know of the affair and scratched herself and tore her clothing before reporting that she had been attacked in the back of a car.

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Heat fails to cool Thatcher spirit

From Michael Hamlyn Kandy, Sri Lanka

Visibly willing in the heat of Sri Lanka's hottest time of year, Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday offered encouragement to President J. R. Jayewardene in his struggle against terrorism and declared that terrorism must never be allowed to succeed anywhere in the world.

"People are only turning to the bullet because they cannot get their way through the ballot," Mrs Thatcher - usually encased in a long-sleeved dress and a three-row pearl choker - told a sweating press conference. "They are trying to impose a rule by force."

The Prime Minister, visiting the central highlands of Sri Lanka to commission the new Victoria Dam, which was built by British firms using British aid, also declared that her Government was doing and would do all it could to prevent Tamil extremists using London for buying and supplying arms.

Last night President Jayewardene expressed his country's dissatisfaction with these efforts by saying at a State banquet: "Your citizens too are being misled to contribute to seemingly innocuous groups. They are used to buy narcotics and weapons to harm and kill Sri Lankans."

Mrs Thatcher had drawn a parallel between her efforts to stop arms being supplied from the United States to the terrorists, and added that the Sri Lankan ethnic crisis would be discussed with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, after she arrives in Delhi today.

She declined to be drawn on subjects which have so far made her tour of eight Asian countries controversial in Britain.

She defended staunchly the Commonwealth, which had earlier been the subject of some peevish remarks in Malaysia, and asserted that she had nothing to add to her comments on the miners' strike, which changed Labour MPs last weekend.

She could not help pointing out to a questioner who drew attention to a hostile resolution from Sri Lanka trade unionists that "one third of the miners kept on working despite violence and despite intimidation". Mrs Thatcher added: "We are very grateful for the bravery and leadership of those people."

At her press conference, the Prime Minister also lapped down a remark from a Labour MP, Mrs Betty Boothroyd, who had accused her of having claimed the credit for supporting the Victoria Dam project when "it should have been attributed to her Labour predecessors."

"I can assure you it was our decision," she said, adding that all decisions of the previous government were up for review after she came to power.

Mr Jayewardene, however, was careful to thank "you and your predecessors" in his speech at the commissioning of the dam under a corrugated iron canopy decorated with palm fronds. The perspiring Prime Minister fanned herself faintly with a programme, amid scenes of considerable scenic splendour.

She said that her Government had set their hand to the task of helping Sri Lanka with the dam "because we felt we could with confidence endorse the economic policies your government was committed to pursuing."

She added: "Our policy is to support abroad the disciplines we practice at home. That means efficient use of resources, careful control of public spending and becoming more competitive in an increasingly competitive world."

With two more countries to visit before she returns, Mrs Thatcher was obviously suffering from Sri Lanka's humid warmth. She coughed a number of times during her press conference, and at one moment appeared quite distressed. "It is a bit hot today," she said.

Last night she addressed the State banquet. Today she will speak to a special session of Parliament - despite some grumbling from left-wing opposition members who complained that it was the Sri Lankan new year, and how would she like to be summoned on Christmas Day.

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Girl's ten years in a coma

From Trevor Fishlock New York

It is 10 years since Karen Quinlan fell into a coma. Her father visits her every morning, her mother two or three times a week. They talk to her and touch her hair and hold her as she lies. "Unresponsive, neither dead nor alive."

Miss Quinlan was the centre of a famous case in 1976 when her parents won a ruling from the New Jersey Supreme Court that the respirator to which she was attached could be turned off.

The Quinlans wanted the machine switched off because they felt it was causing their daughter pain. Doctors refused and were supported by a lower court, but in what was regarded as a landmark decision in questions of prolonging life by artificial means, the state supreme court said the machine could be switched off.

Doctors believed that Miss Quinlan's life probably depended on the respirator. It was disconnected in May 1976. Miss Quinlan's brain function had been largely destroyed, for reasons never clearly established, when she fell into a coma on April 15, 1975. She had drunk three Gins at a party at a time when she had also taken tranquilizers.

Miss Quinlan is now 31. She lies in a New Jersey nursing home in a foetal position, fed through a tube. She weighs five stone. Nurses turn her every two hours. Doctors feel she may eventually be overwhelmed by one of the lung infections that now afflict her every two months. Her treatment bills are met through Medicaid, the government welfare system.

Recently, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that feeding tubes could be removed from terminally ill patients, but Mr and Mrs Quinlan have not asked doctors to remove their daughter's tube. They feel it is not causing her pain.

Every morning Mr Joseph Quinlan drives to see his daughter before he goes to work at a pharmaceutical company. He talks to her and holds her hand. Both he and Mrs Quinlan know there is no hope of a recovery. They have decided that if Karen succumbs to an infection they will not ask for extraordinary measures to be taken to save her.

What helps to sustain them is the memory of a vivacious and pretty girl who filled their lives before she went into limbo at the age of 21.

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Austin Rover-Honda expansion plan

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Austin Rover and Honda are planning further joint ventures after the new Anglo-Japanese executive saloon Project XX is launched in Japan and Britain next summer.

A new engine plant at Swindon, Wiltshire, to supply both companies, and provide new jobs for 2,000 workers, is among the ideas under consideration.

Yesterday, Japanese and British executives attending the ground-breaking ceremony of Honda's new distribution centre at Swindon, denied reports

that they were planning a full merger.

Mr Harold Masugrove, chairman of Austin Rover, said: "Ever since our initial talks with Honda in 1979 both sides have derived increasing benefits from the partnership. We are already talking of further joint ventures."

"But whatever decisions are made they will result in joint ownership of the various enterprises. Both companies are determined to preserve their corporate identity," he said.

Officially Honda has purchased the 330-acre site at Swindon for a £20 million distribution and parts centre. But it became apparent yesterday that it was planning much more.

Mr Toshio Nagay, managing director of Honda UK, said that the former airfield would also be used as a road test centre for Honda cars built by Austin Rover at Cowley.

"Of course we have an eye on the future and must have room for further assembly or even manufacturing," he said.

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Sudan's military rulers will hand back power after 12 months

From Pant Valley, Khartoum

The new military regime in Sudan has agreed to hand over power to an elected civilian government after a year's transition, but it has rejected proposals that in the interim the country should be ruled by a primarily civilian body.

The decisions announced yesterday by the official government news agency, are the results of two days of meetings between the Army high command and the alliance of professional associations, trade unions and political parties which organized the general strike and demonstrations which led to Saturday's coup.

The agreement is seen as something of a compromise. The Army rejected, for security reasons, the alliance's notion of a supreme council of the armed forces commander, a representative of the rebel south and three civilians.

Brigadier Osman Abdulla, for the high command, agreed that a council of ministers consisting mainly of civilians would oversee the administration of the transitional period and that this "cabinet" would have a role in formulating legislation on day-to-day matters.

Legislation on constitutional matters will remain the prerogative of the Transitional Military Council, which the new leader, General Abdul Rahman Swar al-Dahab, announced this week.

Yesterday the professional associations and political parties met individually to draw up lists of nominations to the council of ministers. The suggestions will be discussed with the military council today.

Observers see the selection of candidates as perhaps the most difficult area of negotiation. Since the coup dozens of long-dormant parties and pressure groups have reappeared to demand their say. Alliance members are talking hopefully of a new spirit of flexibility.

Under the agreed system an independent Permanent Elections Committee will organize a national ballot for a legislative assembly which will draft and approve a new constitution.

At the end of the transitional period the assembly will declare itself a parliament, to be elected every four years.

Groups of jurists, academics and politicians have already begun drafting clauses for the constitutional assembly to consider.

Apart from the minister of defence, who will be a soldier, the council of ministers will consist entirely of civilians, acceptable to the armed forces, the unions and the parties. Two portfolios will be reserved for the south.

Leaders of the alliance yesterday declared themselves happy with the agreement. "It is not an ideal solution. We have

had to compromise on the ideas of a civilian transition. But the Army has conceded that the cabinet will take part in legislative decisions", said one union leader.

The Army implied at the recent meetings that any nominees of the unions and political parties would almost certainly be acceptable to the transitional military council.

The alliance and the military have already approved a 13-point charter to guarantee basic civil rights and to re-establish the independence of the judiciary, civil service, unions, media, universities and police, all of which became politicized under the Nimeiry regime.

Groups of influential southerners meeting in Khartoum have presented demands to the new military government, including repeal of the Sharia (Islamic) law and the involvement of the southern rebel Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement in negotiations.

The new regime said yesterday that high court judges had held elections to replace the former Chief Justice, Fuad el-Amin, who was sacked this week for his involvement with the corrupt practices of the old regime.

Khartoum airport, which has been closed for eight days, opened yesterday.



Presidential mule: Sudanese supporters of the weekend coup celebrate by leading a turbaned mule representing former President Gaafar Nimeiry through Khartoum.

Arafat holds secret talks with US politicians

Amman (AP, AFP) - PLO

Chairman, Mr Yassir Arafat, yesterday met a group of US congressmen. When they left after two hours of talks, they refused to say who had taken part or what was discussed.

Mr Arafat and King Hussein of Jordan have formed an alliance to explore possibilities for peace with Israel and creation of a Palestinian state, in confederation with Jordan. The US Administration insists it will not talk with the PLO until it explicitly recognizes Israel's right to exist. Congress is not bound by administration policy.

A PLO official yesterday said five congressmen and three aides took part in the talks at a Government guest house in Amman. Only the delegation's leader, Congressman David Obey, a Democrat, identified himself during the meeting. An aide to Mr Obey confirmed only that the delegation was due to go on to Damascus later yesterday.

The meeting yesterday came only a few days before the US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Mr Murphy, was due in Amman. Officials in Washington have indicated that Mr Murphy might meet a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in the Middle East if Arab leaders drop their insistence that known PLO members be included.

Discovery takes first Senator into space

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The space shuttle Discovery blasted off into overcast skies yesterday carrying a crew of seven, including Senator Jack Garn, the first legislator to orbit the earth.

The Discovery's launch, NASA's sixteenth space shuttle, was delayed by almost an hour because of poor weather and the presence of a cargo ship which had strayed into the restricted area of the Atlantic, off the Kennedy Space Centre.

The mission, postponed five times, came four years after the shuttle Columbia became the first reusable vehicle to fly in space.

Senator Garn, aged 52, a Republican from Utah, is chairman of a Senate subcommittee which oversees NASA's spending. He is on board as a Congressional observer. An experienced Korean War navy pilot he will be tested for the body's responses to weightlessness and nausea in space.

During its five-day mission the shuttle will deploy two communications satellites, one for Canada and one for the US Defence Department.

The crew, under the command of Colonel Karol Bobko, will also experiment with a variety of simple toys intended to demonstrate the unique properties of space flight for elementary and junior high school students.

Reagan will mourn at Nazi graves

From Nicholas Ashford Washington

Jewish leaders reacted angrily yesterday to President Reagan's decision to lay a wreath at a German war cemetery at Bitburg, near the Luxembourg border, where many Nazi soldiers were buried after the "Battle of the Bulge" when he visits Europe next month.

He has previously declined to visit the site of the Dachau concentration camp, on the grounds that he did not want to reopen the "old wounds" of the Second World War.

His decision has also stirred resentment among American veterans' organizations who object to the fact that he will not be visiting US war graves during his 10-day visit.

There is a large American cemetery just 70 miles from Bitburg, where many US servicemen, including General George Patton, are buried.

Mr Daniel Thorsz, executive vice-president of B'nai B'rith International, said the visit to a German military cemetery will stir the bitterest resentment.

Some embarrassed White House officials have conceded that the President's state visit to West Germany, which will take place immediately after the economic summit in Bonn, is becoming a "public relations disaster."

The decision was evidently taken to please Chancellor Kohl, who was upset at being excluded from last year's fortieth anniversary celebrations of the Allied D-Day landings in Normandy.

● FRANKFURT: German Jewish leaders are shocked at Mr Reagan's plan to visit the cemetery (AP reports).

Mr Ignatz Bubis, chairman of Frankfurt's 5,000-member Jewish community, called the plan outrageous.

● The Soviet Union has invited Britain to send a small delegation to attend VE-Day anniversary celebrations in Moscow on May 8 to 9 (Henry Stanhope writes).

But the Government has asked for more details of what is involved, and also wants to discuss its response with NATO allies.

Concorde's slow debut in Moscow

Moscow (Reuters) - A British Airways Concorde flew into Moscow yesterday for a first-time visit by the supersonic airliner, bringing 98 tourists on a £995 24-hour trip.

Virtually the entire staff of Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport crowded at windows to watch Concorde touch down. The flight took five minutes longer than the airline's regular Moscow service, because the authorities would not give permission for supersonic flight through Soviet airspace.

Back to Dallas

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Barbara Bel Geddes, forced to leave the Dallas television series by a quadruple heart bypass operation two years ago, will return to her role of Miss Ellie in the autumn, a studio spokesman said.

Surrogate birth

Paris (Reuters) - Mme Patricia Lavis, France's first commercial surrogate mother, gave birth to a girl at a maternity home in Montpellier two weeks ago, the home announced yesterday.

Bomb death

Lisbon (AFP) - Senhor José Gomes Martins, a factory owner, died in an explosion which ripped through his car in Oporto. Responsibility for the attack was not immediately claimed.

Underwater gun

Stockholm (Reuters) - The Swedish Navy used a new type of weapon, designed to cripple but not destroy any intruding underwater vessel by blasting tiny holes in its hull, during an alert off the southern coast on Thursday. It proved to be a false alarm.

Wages threat

Moscow (AFP) - Pravda raised the possibility that Soviet workers might lose their basic right to a minimum guaranteed wage, quoting a worker's call for "much more severe measures against the lazy".

Bonn police blamed after murder of Libyan

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

The shooting dead of an anti-Gaddafi Libyan by another Libyan in the crowded city centre here has led to a week of accusations that the murderer was known in advance to the police, and generalized anger about dangerous foreigners being allowed to come and go as they please.

A Federal Government spokesman said that Bonn police were alerted two months ago that the gunman was a potential assassin, and that, 21 days after this warning, the city's aliens office renewed his visa allowing him to stay a further two months in West Germany. He was originally here on a four-week visa.

Yesterday several Christian Democratic Party backbenchers in the Federal Parliament denounced Herr Herbert Schnoor, the Minister of the Interior of the North Rhine-Westphalia regional government, which is responsible for police and aliens in Bonn. Conveniently for them, Herr Schnoor is a Social Democrat. He has been called before a Federal parliamentary committee next week.

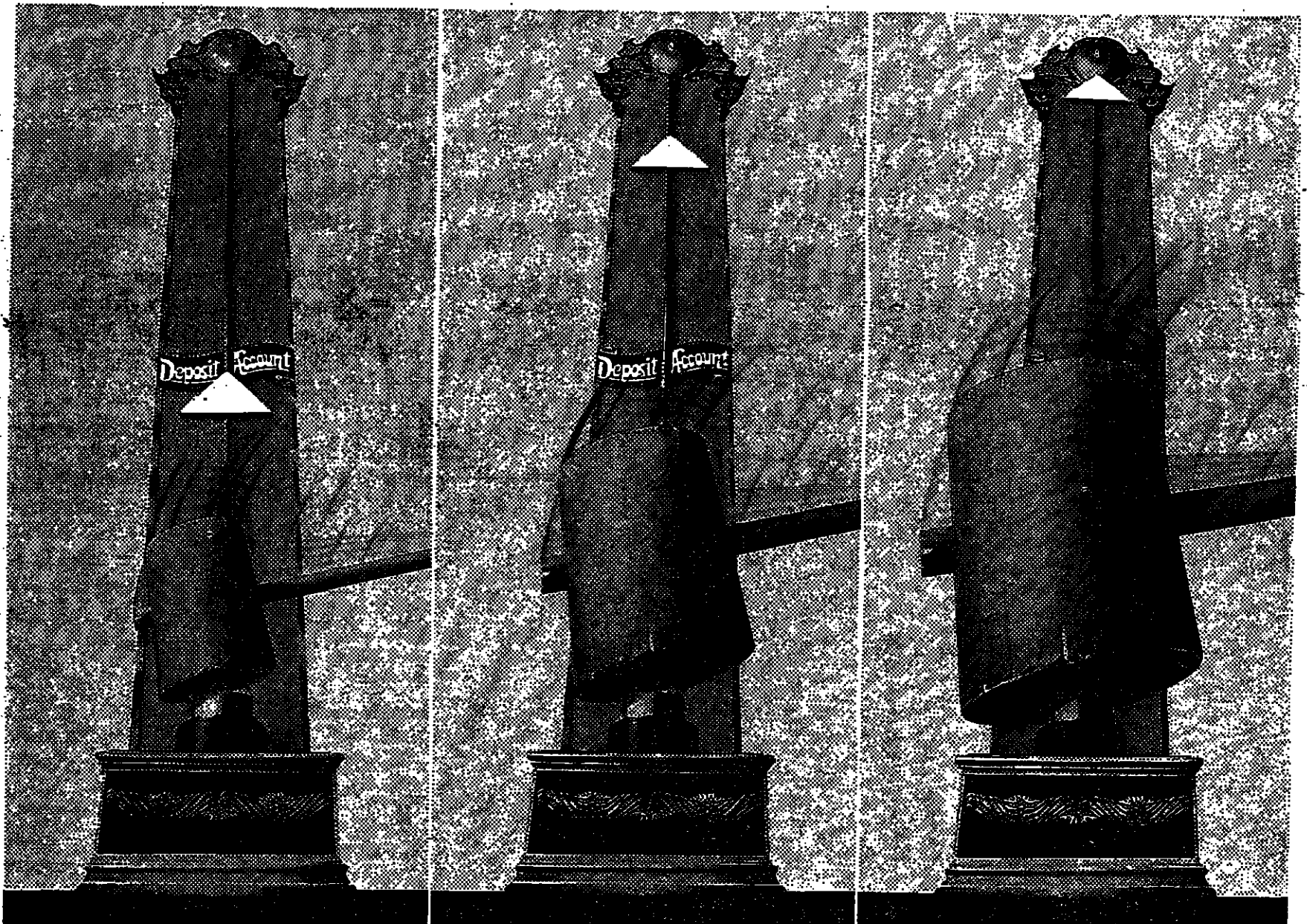
The Libyan chief of mission here said Libya would "respect" any West German sentence on the man. Fears that West Germans, of which there are 3,000, in Libya would be taken hostage in exchange for him were "unfounded", he claimed.

West German officials were treating these remarks with scepticism. Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Federal Minister of the Interior, will raise at the next meeting of EEC Ministers of the Interior the question of "State sponsored terrorism", particularly Libyan.

● WASHINGTON: Dissident factions in the Libyan military have twice tried to kill Colonel Gaddafi in recent weeks but both plots were foiled and dozens of officers executed. The Washington Post said yesterday (Reuters reports).

The paper, citing intelligence reports reaching the Reagan Administration, said conservative officers tried to kill Colonel Gaddafi early last month at a villa outside Tripoli.

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‡Compounded Annual Rate - Being the Gross Equivalent Rate annualised to take account of the compounding of interest paid quarterly.

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3 _____ 4 _____

Date _____

*All parties should sign the application form. Addressed enquiries may be made to the Director of the Manager. Detailed Terms and Conditions of the Account will be sent to you with your Account Opening Pack.

From Desso Trevisan, Belgrade

Mr. Alia, the titular head of

But Albania's response may still depend upon the resolution of a dispute which dates back to

● **PARIS:** The pretender to the Albanian throne, King Leka I, citing the dangers of Soviet expansionism, called on Albanian nationalists yesterday to unite and create "a free and democratic nation" (AP reports).

cases where there was risk of serious mental or physical handicaps to the child or when pregnancy resulted from rape. The court ruled that the law did not protect sufficiently the right to life guaranteed under the 1973 constitution.

the Justice Minister, yesterday said the obstacles the Government was encountering in modernizing Spanish society would be overcome, reminding judges that Spain "is not living in the Middle Ages, but in the twentieth century".

109 in October 1983. He proposed rapid incorporation of the changes so that the law can take effect before the end of the year.

The Government-judiciary clash could worsen over a

The guarantees the constitutional court wants incorporated in the abortion law include two doctors finding serious risk of malformation instead of one and that operations be done only in state or state-recognized clinics.

Aids danger
Berkeley, (AP) - People who

$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{4}$

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Short memories
New York (AP).—Ten years after South Vietnam fell to the communists, one-third of those questioned in an ABC News/Washington Post poll did not know which side the US supported in the Vietnam war.

The Secretary-General denied the meeting. Ayatollah Khomeini said, "The Ayatollah Khomeini, as I understand it, is a spiritual leader. As I am not a spiritual messenger, I did not find it necessary to see him, but I saw him yesterday." He said that President Khamenei, the new President, I saw also the head of Parliament, Mr Rafsanjani, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister.

The Secretary-General will now report to the Security Council on his consultations in the Gulf, including ideas for reducing casualties. He attempted to reintroduce the ban on attacks against civilian targets.

● President Khamenei reiterated yesterday that the war would continue until President Saddam Hussein of Iraq had been overthrown and punished for aggression, the official Iranian news agency, Irna, reported.

may sound like exaggeration, but as Commodore Perry opened up Japan with his black ships it is now our turn to change our Japanese social institutions by ourselves.

Why leave behind this way of life for 1,000 years, so that we can't change it overnight. But it is necessary to change.

Anyone who has had contact with Japanese bureaucracy would scarcely credit that he was talking about the same country, but Mr Nakasone has certainly shown himself willing to make on a challenge he would not dare describe in such colourful or forceful terms to his domestic audience.

Whether he will be able to see the reforms through is far from certain, as he himself admits.

His ministry and agency will have to work together to review functions based on the basis of Mr Nakasone's new slogan: "Freedom in principle, restrictions as exceptions".

the anonymous man at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry include whiskey, Cigarettes, a lighter, a tie or a pocket diary, hi-tech presumably.

The "kitchen" list would tax foreign manufacturers even further: whistling kettle, oven thermometer, Teflon frying pan, bath towel and bed linen.

But then, for the whole family, there is always wine, cheese, chocolate, jam, fondue set and bread basket.

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Belaunde's party faces election defeat by youthful challenger

By Colla Harding

Peru's general election tomorrow promises to be a contest between the social democratic APRA party, Peru's oldest, and the United Left (IU), a coalition of six disparate elements held together by the personality of its presidential candidate, Dr Alfonso Barrantes Lingán.

The ruling Popular Action Party (AP) seems certain to suffer a heavy defeat; the five-year term of President Fernando Belaunde Terry has been marked by rapid economic decline, soaring unemployment and a vicious guerrilla war in the Andes which the Government and armed forces have proved incapable of ending.

A wave of strikes and demonstrations in recent weeks, including one by employees of the electoral authority, has led to fears of "Bolivianization" - runaway inflation and chronic civil disorder.

Opinion polls point to a convincing victory for the APRA candidate, Señor Alan García Pérez, a 35-year-old politician who models himself on Spain's Felipe González. He has managed to overcome most of the ingrained prejudice against APRA in the armed forces and middle classes, which dates back to the party's revolutionary days in the 1930s and 40s.

He has sought to widen the appeal of a traditionally sectarian party. Even so, he is unlikely to win the 50 per cent

Peasants mutilated to enforce boycott

Ayacucho, Peru (Reuters)

Maist guerrillas hacked off peasants' fingers and seized a university building in their latest attempt to enforce a boycott of tomorrow's general election. The Sendero Luminoso rebels chopped the fingers of two youths off in Chumqui, 110 miles from here, to warn villagers not to vote. Rebels also briefly occupied the dining hall of the university here.

of the vote that would make him the outright winner tomorrow. Most observers are expecting a run-off against Dr Barrantes in June.

IU's presidential candidate is the coalition's greatest asset. A short, quietly spoken, and dapper lawyer from Cajamarca in the northern Andes, he has been a successful mayor of Lima for the past 18 months in very difficult circumstances, but his popularity extends far beyond the capital.

Dr Barrantes is not a member of any IU's constituent parties and is considerably to the right of many of his supporters. He has gone out of his way to reassure middle-class voters of his moderation, despite a radical election platform which includes a five-year moratorium on repayment of Peru's \$13.5 billion (about £11 billion) foreign debt, a ban on profit remittances abroad, exchange

controls and an extension of public ownership.

The conservative and traditionally interventionist Army has promised to respect the result if IU could win. Such an outcome is, however, unlikely.

Dr Barrantes must be hoping to consolidate the impressive gains made by IU in the 1983 municipal elections by becoming the effective opposition in Congress. He is only 36 and has plenty of time to try again.

The understanding between AP and Peru's other main right-wing party, the Popular Christian Party (PPC), which lasted for most of Señor Belaunde's term, broke down when it came to selecting presidential candidates. The consequent split in the right-wing vote effectively put paid to any remaining hopes of winning at the polls.

The PPC's charismatic leader, Dr Luis Bedoya Reyes, is the stronger of the two, but his popularity is largely confined to the capital. AP's candidate, Señor Javier Alva Orlandini, the party's general secretary, is an old-fashioned political boss without popular appeal.

Whoever takes office on July 28 will have to deal with the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas, who have shown their contempt for all electoral politics with a campaign of propaganda and sabotage. The Government has prepared a massive security operation, and voting is unlikely to be disrupted much except in the guerrillas' Andean heartland.



Youthful image: Young campaign workers displaying posters of Señor Alan García, the presidential candidate, before pasting them up in Lima for tomorrow's election.

Strike wave as Neves reported near death

From Patrick Knight
São Paulo

As Brazil's new government faced its first big challenge, a strike by 250,000 metal workers in São Paulo, the precarious health of President-elect Tancredino Neves deteriorated further yesterday.

In an attempt to halt the spread of renewed industrial action, he was operated on for the seventh time on Thursday night. His second operation in 48 hours.

It was reported that on Tuesday his heart stopped during an operation to insert a tube to facilitate breathing. Electric shocks were given to revive him. His resistance is rapidly diminishing, his kidneys are weakening, and his heart beat is erratic.

The metal workers, once again led by the head of the Workers Party, Senhor Luis Inacio da Silva ("Lula"), one of several hundred banned union leaders reinstated by the new Government, are striking for more frequent and bigger wage rises, and a shorter working week. All the motor factories, most of which have large export orders, came to a halt, and 3,000 vehicles were not built on Thursday.

In an attempt to consolidate himself in power, Vice-President José Sarney is seeking support from the dominant party in the Democratic Alliance, the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB), and turning his back on former colleagues from the Social Democratic Party, who formed the new Liberal Front Party.

It is anticipated that if Senhor Neves dies, the entire Cabinet will offer its resignation, and that Senator Dornelles, at least, would not be prepared to return to power. The country has become resigned to the prospect of Senhor Neves's death. Police have been put on alert, and leave cancelled.

Although there is a widespread feeling that the full truth about the President-elect's illness has not been revealed, and many people believe he has been the victim of some plot, disturbances are not anticipated if he dies.

But as the present strike in São Paulo intensifies - and others by railway workers, teachers and bus crews are planned - the failure of the new Government to take any initiatives on the planned social pact, is beginning to provoke severe social problems.

Action will have to be taken soon, if more serious conflict is to be averted, whatever happens to Senhor Neves.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Frustration for the sisters



Janet McTeer as Masha

Three Sisters

Royal Exchange, Manchester

This is Casper Wrede's second Chekhov production for the Royal Exchange, and it provoked the same frustrated dissatisfaction that greeted his version of *The Cherry Orchard*.

It has the advantage of an immaculately sensitive new translation by Michael Frayn and contains excellent individual performances. But its separate elements fail to mesh together into a shared dramatic fabric, and not only through the casting of a Norwegian Chebulykin, a Swedish Vershinin, and a Natasha straight out of *Coronation Street*.

The stage itself presents the first obstacle to coherent focus. Of all Chekhov's plays, *Three Sisters* - with its calculated use of the up and down stage areas - is most wedded to the proscenium. When played in the round all kinds of snags start appearing.

Di Seymour's set for the first act, a long table pushed up to the window with morning

sunlight streaming in, is beautiful to look at, but it affords no chance for background comment on foreground action, and nowhere for the lovers to hide away from the main party.

The same problem reappears in the scene of the fire, when the girls have great difficulty in isolating themselves from their maudlin brother; and all we get of the last act's avenue of fir trees is a potted drapery that plays old Harry with the sight lines. Add to these factors the head entrances inescapable at the Exchange and it is not surprising that the play should seem to be clicking mechanically over pre-arranged points, rather than organically unfolding.

Most of the performances are well-judged, though Emma Piper is too forceful an Olga and David Ashford's Kulygin has no character left when he discards classroom buffoonery. But in general, the starting features and separate development of each figure are clearly inscribed. Janet McTeer's Masha, coolly withdrawn from the family and looking daggers at her husband, undergoes spectacular eruptions of bad

temper before collapsing upon the departing Vershinin with shrill ugly sobs.

There is equal force in the decline of Nicholas Blaine's Andrei from innocent hopefulness (even trying out the role of head of the household) to dulled marital despair.

Christopher Bramwell finds a new vein of comic mockery in the Baron: Sven-Bertil Taube has the charm to override the boredom of Vershinin's philosophical prophecies. And Esben Skjoberg, brilliantly covers Chebulykin's despairing indifference with the carnival mask of a jovial uncle - even returning from the duel with a broad grin on his face. Unfortunately these performances seldom harmonise.

Mr Frayn's text, without drawing any deliberate attention to itself, endows each character with his own idiom and contains any number of lovely turns of phrase: as where the lovelorn Major is contrasted with Andrei, the loveliest fiddler or the witless Solyony refers to female philosophy as "full-of-gossipy".

Irving Wardle

What a Way to Run a Revolution

Young Vic

George V's celebrated comment about the General Strike emerges from a giant set of teeth beneath a moustache and crown as the Union Jack unfurls and the cast sing "Jerusalem". This, at the climax of the piece, is an acerbic perceptive summation; perhaps the strikers really would have been better advised to "shoot the bobbies".

This musical play by David Benedictus plunders *Hansard* and newspaper reports of the time to assemble an account of the strike which combines sentimental evocations of proletarian solidarity with the more tire-

some brand of costume frolic, almost as though Open University had collided with a production of *The Boyfriend*. Channel 4 will be recording a performance next week.

The chief strength of the author's production consists in the way the entire theatre is transformed into the House of Commons.

Unfortunately the musical element which forms so large a part of the play is pretty woolly. Memorably uncanny melodies by Guy Wolfenden are complemented by workmanlike lyrics from the play's author and there is plenty of enthusiastic choral work from the company. But when a trio of miners' wives sing the line "tell them how it really was" the realization

dawns that we have been told practically nothing about the condition of the workers whose action precipitated the strike. As the great-grandson of one of the miners who were starved into submission, I feel the exercise is meretricious.

An excellently-drilled cast attack their parts with gusto. Stephen Harford makes a star, Mr Pittman's favourite subjects since it allows him to become almost girlish with curiosity and horror.

Martin Cropper

Television

Just Another Day (BBC 2) abandoned the times of industry for that great source of pastoral contentment, Richmond Park - by London but not of it, rural in spirit but quite without the sedum of Nature in its rawer state. "It's really a slow situation", as one of its keepers put it, and across its emerald or sometimes muddy banks come the solitary walkers who find in this glorified backyard food for both consolation and reflection. There are some who seem oddly drawn to the same spot since it is, as one South African woman explained, "a place for being on one's own".

Its relatively secluded nature ensured, of course, that this could not be one of the most animated programmes in a series which has prided itself upon discerning various facets of human ingenuity or eccentricity. There is not much you can do with squirrels or stags, at least with a camera, which has not been done.

But John Pittman tried very hard: he found a

lady who named her dog after Vita Sackville-West (the sex of the creature was not disclosed), and by a great stroke of luck he discovered "a scientist and beetle fan" - this last being one of Mr Pittman's favourite subjects since it allows him to become almost girlish with curiosity and horror.

In fact the endeavours of the film-researchers and the film-crew seemed thoroughly to disprove the opening assertion of Richmond Park's solitariness: within the space of 30 minutes we saw, either filmed or interviewed, a resident artist, two Japanese ladies looking for nuts, a gaggle of infant dancers, sportsmen, school parties, a disabled racer who plays the bagpipes at twilight, a number of squirrel- and pigeon-fanciers, and a man who records the sounds of the variety of birds which no doubt, like the humans, think of this place as specifically their own.

Peter Ackroyd

Concerts

LSO/Abbado

Festival Hall

There have been some doubts about the coherence of the scheme which underlies the LSO's current festival, Mahler, Vienna and the Twentieth Century, but Thursday night's concert hung together very well indeed. There was Mahler's Seventh, there was Weber's Op 10, those dedicated echoes of a Mahlerian sound-world which actually quote from Mahler's symphonies; and there was Boulez at his most febrile and intensely extrovert in *Notations*, a work which, as Paul Griffiths reported here, has more Mahlerian allusions in its unpublished and as yet unorchestrated other sections.

Hugh Tinney

Queen Elizabeth Hall

The young Dublin-born pianist Hugh Tinney has hit the glory trail recently, winning a couple of major competitions. This recital, in fact, was part of his first prize at the Santander Competition, and he amply demonstrated the talent which impressed the judges there.

Mahler's Seventh forward-looking? It used to be acceptable just to dismiss it as the composer repeating himself (Hans Redlich's view) or to wave it by saying that it "fails to sustain a consistent level of interest". But its acceptance of its own disjunctness, its more than passing sense of harmonic chaos (it certainly will not do to describe it as the programme did "in E minor", since its tortuous tonal plan is more complex and its essential mode is the major) now seem prophetic of later vision.

And with a conductor as sure as Claudio Abbado of its every dark nook and cranny, the dream world of the symphony becomes, especially in the three central movements, a frighteningly coherent nightmare. The sliding triplets of the scherzo and the deadpan music-box tunes of the second *Nachtmusik*

were both eerily convincing, even though the LSO's playing was never quite subtle or atmospheric enough to do justice to Abbado's direction.

The most striking moments were the sudden collapses: the extraordinary start of the recapitulation in the first movement, when the development's climax is cut off at its height, like changing channels; and a similar moment in the finale, when an open, triumphant E major is attained, only to be swept away in blood-curdling G flat.

Nicholas Kenyon

Albain one occasionally felt that those gypsy rhythms should be etched with a sharper, more incisive touch.

It was the noble severity of Schubert's A minor Sonata, D784, which seemed to strike the deepest resonance in the pianist's own personality. His unhurried exposition of the first movement's stark drama emphasised the music's stoic qualities, while the finale's triplets were muted but not slowed, so that their scurrying acquired a magical, remote quality.

Richard Morrison

Radio

A tribute to serious music by Radio 4

I have a feeling - although I did not see the piece in question - that Channel 4's *God Rot Tunbridge Wells* may have added weight to the suggestion I made last week that radio's "unimportance" in the eyes of some actually protects us, its listeners, from a number of fairly dire experiences.

No risk that Messrs John Osborne and Tony Palmer will offer their talents to radio's Handel celebrations. Instead we have the inestimable good fortune to be obliged to make do with Messrs Stanley Sadie and Alan Haydock whose *The Great and Good Mr Handel* (Radio 4) filled three afternoons last week by *Woman's Hour*. Mr Sadie's script gave us an excellent overview of Handel's life from his emergence (despite his father, who would have put him to the law) as a child prodigy, through his rapid rise to fame in London and his eventual decline into blindness and death.

I'm not sure that Carl Duerig's playing of the part of Handel was really large enough - he sounded rather like an elderly German professor. But what he lacked in sonority was more than made up for by a truly splendid selection of music, calculated to leave us in no doubt of the composer's colossal gifts and drawn not only from the items we already know all too well, but from a good deal of the less familiar though no less impressive repertoire.

These illustrations were blessedly ample - most of them substantial sequences with a relatively sparing use of voice over. Although this was a proper celebration for a three hundredth anniversary, though how odd that it should fall to the Unmusic Programme, as it were, to serve up such a feast.

In view of this, I would like to propose that Radio 4 should do a similar service for J. S. Bach and maybe even Donizetti Scarlatti before the ten-yearly is out since it appears that Radio 3 has no intention of filling that particular gap. The year has and will continue to be marked, I gather, simply by playing a good deal more of the music than usual.

All right, and in the case of Bach, for instance, the decision to broadcast all the Leipzig Cantatas on their appropriate days - albeit the Sunday ones go out at 8am! - is especially welcome.

And yet neither this nor all the other music is really enough: 1685-1985 is an occasion, but on Radio 3 it is being allowed to pass with very little sense of occasion. February 23 saw a relay of the Handel Tercentenary Concert; March 2 brought a performance of *The St Matthew Passion* direct from Leipzig. Perfectly appropriate of course, but it calls for little imaginative or innovative effort to line up with the events other people have already organised.

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Radio 3 has so far created no events distinctively its own in honour of three - or at any rate two and a half - giants in the history of music. A great birthday does require a birthday party, but it has been left to people to provide one and then for only one of the participants and seven weeks late at that. But there, I'm afraid that Radio 3's approach to the whole tercentenary seems to me rather unfortunately in keeping with the network's present character non-celebratory.

In other ways, too, Radio 4 has led with celebrations. Dear loving beautiful friend... (April 8; producer, Clair Selver-Grey) recorded an entrancing correspondence between a young violinist to the Halle, Audrey Napier-Smith, and the poet John Macfie, then approaching the end of his life. June Knox-Mawer talked gently to Ms Napier-Smith who had clearly become a marvelous figure of romantic fantasy for Macfie.

Earlier that same day Margaret Percy, known chiefly for her penetrating documentaries about Northern Ireland, celebrated *The Secret Life of the Circus* (Radio 4; producer, Sharon Bonoff) and took us deep into that extraordinary world in which the glitter so thinly conceals the sweat and effort that these days barely keep the show going literally on the road.

David Wade

Hu cancels briefing on eve of tour

From Mary Lee
Peking

Mr Hu Yaobang, the Chinese Communist Party secretary-general, yesterday left for Australia, his first trip to a Western country, declaring that China did not intend to compete with anyone in the South Pacific region. His two-week visit will also take him to New Zealand, Western Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Mr Hu was to have held a 15-minute press conference before leaving. Its cancellation was probably to avoid further questions about a proposed courtesy call to Chinese ports by the US Navy.

Diplomats say he committed a gaffe when he told Australian and New Zealand journalists on Wednesday that China had demanded that vessels armed only with conventional weapons be sent, and that the Americans had agreed.

Some analysts argue that the remark was intended to put Mr Hu in a good light in New Zealand, where the Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, precipitated a recent dispute with Washington by refusing to allow the US Navy into his country for an Anzus military exercise because they might be carrying nuclear weapons. Mr Hu, however, says he will not raise the issue in New Zealand.

PERTH: The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, yesterday said that Mr Hu's visit to the mineral-rich Pilbara region would lead to the first significant foreign investment by China (AP reports).

Ortega hits at Reagan 'jungle law'

Managua (Reuters)

President Daniel Ortega has told world leaders that a proposal by President Reagan to end Nicaragua's guerrilla war admits US involvement and is based on the law of the jungle.

Ortega said in a letter to heads of State in Latin America and Western Europe that the proposal last week constituted dictatorial interference.

The letter, made available to reporters on Thursday, said the proposal was a recognition that Washington "is carrying out a war against Nicaragua through a mercenary army it organised. To accept this ultimatum would be nothing else than to accept the law of the jungle to international relations."

In an apparent attempt to win congressional approval for \$14 million (£11 million) in aid to right-wing Nicaraguan rebels, President Reagan told Nicaraguan's leftist Sandinista Government that US aid for the rebels would not be used for arms on condition that the Sandinistas started peace talks.

PANAMA CITY: Diplomats from nine countries went back to the bargaining table yesterday trying to resolve the differences between Nicaragua and three of its neighbours (AP reports).

Police break up Chile protests over murders

Santiago (AP)

Police used water cannon, tear gas and bullets to disperse demonstrators protesting at the unsolved murders of three communist activists whose bodies were found last month. At least 26 people were reported wounded.

The National Workers Command had called for children to stay home from school and workers to join union leaders in a march on Thursday to the Supreme Court, but there was little public response.

In a Santiago slum area, gunmen in an unmarked car shot a demonstrator aged 23, in the stomach, but hospital officials said he was stable.

Another about 50 people gathered to support 16 union leaders marching on the court.

A business group called the New Right yesterday urged the General to stay in Guatemala to deal with protests at economic reforms including tax increases of up to 50 per cent.

Senor Pedro Lamport, a leader of the powerful Chamber of Industry, Agriculture and Finance, said on Friday that if the tax increases were not scrapped his group would call strikes.

Comp rumour in Guatemala puts leader's trip off

Guatemala City (Reuters)

General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, the Guatemalan head of state, yesterday cancelled a trip abroad because of coup rumours after the introduction of a unpopular austerity measures. He was due to leave tomorrow for the Vatican, Egypt and Israel.

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Indonesia fears embarrassment to its allies

Jakarta (Reuters)

Indonesia is anxious to avoid embarrassing statements during the visit of Vietnam's Defence Minister, Mr Van Tien Dung, for fear of the effect on its Asian allies (Our Correspondent writes).

Mr Dung, who began a six-day trip in Jakarta yesterday, had been forced several times to cancel his visit because of possible embarrassment when Hanoi's troops were wiping out Cambodian bases on the Thai-Cambodian border.

Dr Mochtar, Indonesian Foreign Minister, said: "I don't think it is necessarily embarrassing" he added. "I have asked his host, General Benny Murdani, that no embarrassing statements be made."

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) - comprising Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei - is trying to persuade Hanoi to withdraw its estimated 170,000 troops from Cambodia.

Admiral failed to report on murder

Taipei (Reuters, AFP) - Taiwan's military intelligence chief yesterday admitted that he made a serious mistake when he failed to report to his superiors on the murder of a dissident writer in California last October.

Vice-Admiral Wang Hai-ling, who is charged with the murder of Mr Henry Liu, told a military tribunal he did not order the killing.

He said Chen Chi-ti, aged 41, a Taiwanese gang leader, told him a week after the murder that Mr Liu had been killed by members of his gang. Admiral

Wang said he did not report this to his Ministry of Defence superiors. "My biggest mistake is failing to report."

Chen testified last week that he was ordered by Admiral Wang to kill Mr Liu, whom he described as a traitor and triple-agent working at the same time for Peking, Taipei and Washington.

Admiral Wang has admitted having told the gangster to teach Mr Liu a lesson.

"I know it was very wrong to use gangsters in our mainland operations. I never thought that would set up this trap to get me involved in the murder," he said.

"Maybe morally I have a certain responsibility, but legally I should not be responsible for his (Mr Chen's) personal act, which was beyond what I could foresee," he said.

Two of his deputies, Major-General Hu Yi-min and Colonel Chen Hui-men, are also on trial before the tribunal as accessories. All three have pleaded not guilty, but face the death penalty if convicted.

Chen Chi-ti and Wu Tun, another gang leader, were jailed for life by a civilian court this week for Mr Liu's murder.

Home-made rockets shut Tokyo airport

Note asks UK to extend stay

Chinese visa

Aids danger

Seoul riot

Sleeper hold

Short memory

In Gulf War N mediation

Ikasone film music reform

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Zola: j'accuse

"My final wish," said Zola Budd in a statement that was read out for her at a press conference in January, "is to be treated and accepted as any other British athlete." One of the characteristics of ordinary British athletes is that they spend a good deal of their time in Britain. This is not the case with Miss Budd. On my latest count she has spent a total of five weeks in this country since she left Britain for the Olympic Games and disaster last July.

After the Olympics she went back to South Africa. She next returned to London for the press conference already mentioned on January 3, and stayed a couple of days. She came back to England again a few days before her first winter race here on January 25, and stayed until February 17. She ran twice at Corkin, once at Ipswich and once at Birkhead, where a demonstration ended her part in the race. She also passed through England twice on her way to and from the world cross-country championship in Lisbon, spending about 36 hours here on the way out and 48 on the way back. Now she is in South Africa again, and will be there until June, as she has announced.

It is possible to confuse the issue, as some in the sporting world do, by pointing out that Daley Thompson spends a great deal of his time in California. In fact, he has spent 95 per cent of his time in London since the Olympics and in any case he is a British-born cockney who did not acquire his passport in a 10-day rush.

Customized

Rajiv Gandhi has issued a special prime ministerial decree on behalf of the Indian cricketer Ravi Shastri. Shastri was the "champion of champions", a typically understated award from the Australian festival of pajama cricket, the so-called "World Championship of Cricket". India won it, of course, and Shastri, as a reward for his accomplishment, was presented with a fancy motor car. The only snag was that importing it into India would cost him £50,000 in duty. Now Mr Gandhi has decided to let him off.

After 650 league appearances, England international Steve Whitworth, now with Mansfield Town, had never scored a goal. Then, a couple of weeks ago, he hit his first. A week later, he scored again. Someone at last had discovered his penalty-taking potential.

Cantab criteria

Oxford men, roseate after their tenth successive Boat Race win last weekend, are beginning to wonder if there isn't something seriously amiss with their rivals' selection methods. Philip, a member of the Oxford crew, had previously been dropped by Cambridge. Two of the men who rowed in the reserves race and won for the Oxford boat, Isis, had previously been at Cambridge. Was this a matter of poaching? No, neither Cowley nor Sudbury had even got near selection in their Cambridge days: they were kept as strictly college oarsmen. Then there is the case of Richard Budgett, who won an Olympic gold medal in the coxed fours at Los Angeles last summer. He was at Cambridge but was never selected to row in the Boat Race, not even for the Cambridge reserve crew, Goldie.

Floundering in the second division, Wolves have taken on the redoubtable Rachael Heyhoe Flint, former England women's cricket captain, as a promotions consultant. Mrs Flint says: "It's like being asked to join the Titanic in mid-voyage."

Time and tide

The sculls head of the river race is held today, with more than 400 single scullers skimming along the Boat Race course in reverse, from Mortlake to Putney. But Stephen Redgrave, heir apparent to the mantle of Chris Bailleur, a member of the Olympic gold medal winning coxed four, and tipped as a possible future single scull gold medal winner, will not be there. He didn't get his entry in on time.

Sweet runner

Six cans of Coca Cola enabled Finnish driver Rauno Aaltonen to complete the African Safari Rally this week. With his support team miles away, the clutch of his Opel Manta began to slip badly as he was struggling through a remote semi-desert section of the final leg. Aaltonen's solution was to pour an entire six pack of Coke into the clutch housing. He got home in fourth place. "Anything with sugar will do it," he said.



"Aimed no doubt at followers of the Bishop of Durham"

Arms: a Third World warning

by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

The superpowers are holding nuclear arms talks in Geneva under the looming shadow of a prospective new nuclear arms race in space. This threat of high-technology rivalry has crowded everything else off the stage. America and the Soviet Union are in danger of mesmerizing themselves with their exclusive contest and are not giving enough attention to what their arms race is doing to attitudes beyond their own two European-based alliances.

There are a range of potential users of nuclear weapons whose purposes have little to do with the old East-West confrontation. A "Star Wars" protective shield might, for example, have to work overtime if Israel or South Africa were to try to use the bomb in order to hold their enemies at bay a little longer. Others might want it to warn off rivals with possible plans for a bomb of their own.

A pro-nuclear attitude has taken a strong hold in the Third World not because the devastation of a nuclear war is underestimated, but precisely because it is understood very well.

If the five nuclear powers, the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France and China, are not going to stop this dangerous game, others are going to play too. Nuclear calculations at this point get caught up with deeper historical frustrations about the structure of power in the world.

Nuclear armers and disarmers in the First World seem blithely ignorant of the "democratization" of the bomb that is just round the corner. They are like the first road-users arguing about whether it is safe to allow each other an extra Rolls-Royce and not realizing there is a whole fleet of Model T Fords that will make a nonsense of their elite traffic code. The Third World bomb, and soon perhaps the terrorist bomb, is here. The question is whether the Americans and Russians should take notice of it in their own negotiations or whether there is so little they can now do to restrain its proliferation that they might just as well leave their heads in the Star Wars clouds.

When keeping the bomb to themselves was just a matter of sitting tight on the technical know-how and the uranium or plutonium, the nuclear powers were in rare agreement with each other about wanting to keep their monopoly that way. Now that the rather mundane and accessible technology for a simple bomb is out, and keeping countries out of the nuclear club also involves dealing with them politically, the

superpowers are a lot less certain about which way to move.

But they are going to have to do something. In September the 124 signatory states to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty gather in Geneva. They are in angry mood. Under article 6, the three nuclear signatories, Britain, the Soviet Union and the U.S., have to demonstrate progress on disarmament if the other countries are to stay militarily non-nuclear. If countries are to be led back from the brink there must be an effective international initiative that imposes concessions on both nuclear and non-nuclear powers.

Real disarmament concessions by all nuclear powers - meaning deep cuts in armaments to a level of minimum deterrence - must be matched by much tougher inspection regulations by the International Atomic Energy Agency to police the supposedly peaceful uses of nuclear power by all countries. And if the crucial concession to limit proliferation has to be a test ban treaty for both nuclear and still non-nuclear powers that, given the alternative of a new unruly generation of nuclear states, is a nettle the superpowers must grasp.

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The author, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees, is president of the Groupe de Bellevue.

Peter Lennon on a literary upsurge that looks beyond the Troubles



Longley: from Dublin dilettante to regional Arts Council director. He styles himself 'a mutant Irishman' and is vehement that he is no mere versifying journalist



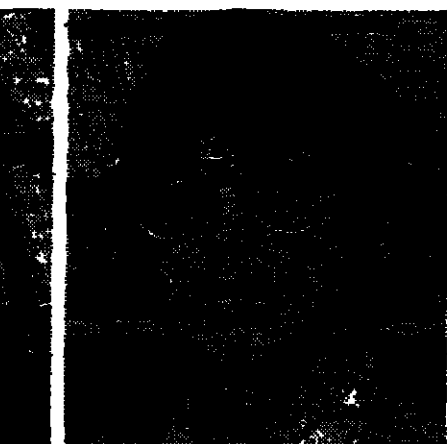
Simmons: university lecturer who tours the country singing his own ballads



Mahon: 'at last we were part of world history again'



Pauline: an English father, Belfast mother and an Indian Catholic wife. It all adds up to a polemical republicanism



Muldoon: accused of 'cashing in on the situation'

Poetry, the other Northern Ireland ferment

In 1984 the literary event of the year was the publication of two volumes of poetry by Seamus Heaney. This year an Arts Council report has made it clear that this exceptional fecundity is not limited to Heaney. Northern Ireland, for long artistically a provincial backwater, is experiencing a cultural explosion, mainly evident in the works of 43 playwrights and up to a dozen poets.

Drama, being a garrulous medium, weds naturally with political and social themes. But poetry, more contemplative and studious, has special problems in this kind of climate. The poets of Northern Ireland face expectations from their readers - to "bear witness", even to be "war poets" - which do not normally confront a poet.

There are five established poets who are persistently faced with such challenges, but they are conspicuous for other reasons. All, roughly, of Heaney's generation and living somewhat in Heaney's shadow, their artistic development has interlocked from the beginning. They are not a product of "the Troubles", but of the Education Act of 1947 which brought working-class Catholics and Protestants to university and created, in the 1960s, a political and intellectual ferment in the province.

They are now dispersed throughout Britain but remain in close contact. It is a continuation of the time spent in pubs with Seamus Heaney (then lecturing at Queen's), when they would offer each other bits of bardic paper and tell each other "it was great or it was shit". With them, representing a divided province, questions of identity are not just matters of aesthetic speculation.

Tom Paulin (aged 36), the most polemically "republican" (but not nationalist) of them all, is actually an Englishman, born of a Leeds headmaster and a Belfast mother. A session at Rosetta Protestant primary school in Belfast was enough to work the sweet alchemy, however. He then thoroughly confused his trail by marrying a Northern Ireland Catholic who is also Indian. He now lives and teaches in Nottingham.

Michael Longley (46), a staunchly bearded man with the winning ways appropriate to his role of non-sectarian Santa Claus (he is a director of the region's Arts Council), confesses to a sense of deprivation after even short absences from the province, although he has no familial hinterland there. Both his parents came from Clapham.

His acknowledged mentor, Derek Mahon, 44, son of a Belfast shipyard engineer, now lives in London. Like Longley, he chose Dublin's Trinity College for higher education. This was not too disorientating since the two Protestants were simply experiencing the flip side of sectarian apartheid. Catholics were forbidden entry to Trinity, not by the college authorities but by the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin.

About this time the grandson of

the Protestant lord mayor of Derry, James Simmons (52), spent a few years looking for enlightenment in Nigeria and returned to Coleraine in 1967, just in time for the social upheaval which turned the province into a kind of Grand Guignol theatre. Simmons, who is a senior lecturer at the New University of Ulster, is also a baladeur and travels the country singing his own compositions.

Longley admits to having been taken aback by the vehemence of the counter-attack to the civil rights movement of the late 1960s, and even more so by the callous fury of the Provisionalist rioters. His earlier experience in Belfast had been that of a busy schoolboy and then a gratifying period as a dilettante in Dublin, turning out four or five poems a day: "Now I'm lucky if I write four or five a year". Suddenly everything had become hideously complicated.

"A funny kind of thing happened," says Derek Mahon, "Northern Ireland was on the TV screens every day and there were journalists from Paris and New York and in a strange kind of way people in this backwater, which had been totally ignored for so long, started to enjoy the attention, and we preened ourselves a little. At last, or once again, we were part of world history as we had been in the days of the Somme."

The price was exacted, of course, in the usual way: in lives. "People felt for so long that they were not spoken for," Mahon continues. "Now there was also concern for the lost generations in between. This created an urgent burrowing into the past: the reprinting of books; old photographs even, from the 1930s and 1950s and Northern Ireland achieved the sense of having a culture every bit as real as that of Southern Ireland."

"The island as a whole has come alive," Longley says. "Publishing is booming North and South. There is a kind of national self-confidence which you have not got in England." But a self-consciousness is imposed on that confidence. Before 1968 it was possible to be just an Irish poet, or simply a poet writing in English. Now people were expected to be "Ulster" poets: to say you were an "Irish" poet might suggest some element of rejection of Unionist "Ulster", while to declare you were British could be to renege on your Irish culture.

Among loyalists this search for identity can become particularly *rechereché*. Some loyalists, in response to the realization that they feel part of neither Britain nor Ireland, are working on the proposition that they are descended from the Scottish *cruthin* people, a coastal tribe whose domain encompassed both Antrim and Scotland's shores. This theory would mean they are indigenous Irish, not settlers, and prove in effect there were Presbyterians in Ulster before the Catholics, indeed before Christ. It also, unfortunately, makes them nationalists.

This problem of cultural identity can be a damn nuisance, Mahon says. "But in a funny way," he admits, "that is also the job - the answering of that question."

Longley - who refers to himself as a "mutant Irishman" - says that their agreed response to the question of bearing witness was that they were determined not to become "versifying journalists". Mahon, a "secular, republican socialist" who like them all is opposed to violence, said that he struggled with himself for a long time about whether he was going to write about the daily tragedy or ignore it. "In the end," he said, "you cannot tell yourself what to write. If I found myself writing about it I let it happen. Poetry simply contributes to the melee of discourse. But I don't think it should be written with an end in view other than itself."

One of Longley's poems commemorates 10 linen workers murdered for being Protestant.

When they massacred the ten linen workers
There fell on the road beside them
Walters, small change, and a set of dentures,
Blood, food particles, the bread,
the wine.

Paulin found a violent car accident in which his wife was involved as valid a subject for poetry as any political killing. But in *Decadency* he writes about those inescapably binding provincial family connections:

All those family histories
are like sucking a polo mint -
You're pulled right through
a tight wet sphincter
that loses you.

Although concerned not to capitalize on the community's wounds

they do not always escape accusations of "cashing in on the situation" which was one critic's response to Paul Muldoon's long poem, *The More a Man Has the More a Man Wants*. At one point he describes the death of a councillor, victim of a booby trap.

Once they collect his smithereens
he doesn't quite add up.
They're shy of a foot, and a calf
which stems
from his left shoe like a severely
pruned-back shrub.

Jimmy Simmons felt the challenge of bearing witness more directly. He reacted to Seamus Heaney's *North*. "Heaney announced a kind of tribal position," Simmons said. "It was an interesting position, and honest to admit that the ties of the tribes were stronger than your liberal, university education."

Simmons feels he has the task of "filling the gaps". "People," he said, "it is a stupid attitude. In Northern Ireland they have, if you take a balanced view, a good record in comparison with countries like the United States." He wrote a poem "which is more of a drama".

Lament for a Dead Policeman:
The distinctive feature
of Irish life, politically,
he could spell it out rightly -
isn't just bigotry, it's the easy
toleration of violence by any side,
moral confusion, fearful cruelty,
acceptance of crime becoming
collusion.

The Troubles, he says, help to focus the emotions. But he finds the title Northern Ireland poet "too heavy on the tongue", and prefers the label "Irish" poet.

Even the poets who live in Northern Ireland permanently have no sense of being on a front line. When Simmons was asked by the BBC to write a ballad about a particularly devastating bomb attack in the village of Claudy he had a problem.

"Living in Coleraine and Portrush I had seen nothing of this kind of thing," he said. "I had to go and do research. But I was quite pleased I did it." His ballad, *Claudy*, is constantly sung in the North.

There is no slackening of the literary surge in Northern Ireland. Blackstaff Press on March 14 published the work of a new raft of young poets.

Paulin puts this energy to the fact that Ireland has broken free of the Anglican influence. "The Eliot school, with its insidious kind of *via media*, which had its source in a certain form of civility, but is an increasing source of a certain kind of deadness."

Longley, with apologies for the geological metaphor, explains it like this: "Ireland is volcanic; England is sedimentary."

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Philip Howard Mandarins and mechanicals

Philip: Tell me, Josephus, are all the children in our ideal state to be given the same education?

Josephus: By no means, O Philip. If a man were to give the same training to a race-horse, a cart-horse, and a Shetland pony, you would say that as a horse-trainer he was as foolishly egalitarian as Procrustes, and that his notions of horse fodder were as barbarous as those of Diomedes. Each child must be given the education suited to his or her talents and prospects.

P: How shall we decide this?

J: The golden children, who are destined to be Guardians, politicians, and senior civil servants, shall study the academic and intellectually demanding subjects to fit them for their role as wise and incorruptible philosopher kings. Children of silver, and iron, and brass, will be taught more suitable practical and manual skills.

P: What subjects shall we teach them in these national curricula that we are laying down? For our discussion is on no trifling matter, but on the right way to educate our children.

J: The golden children, who are destined to be Guardians, may study literary subjects, such as Latin and Greek and other foreign languages, and music, and advanced mathematics, and even English literature. Though there is no harm in even them acquiring manual skills.

The children of brass and iron will study practical subjects to promote the state's ability to seize the challenging opportunities of a technological and competitive world.

P: You have me there, O Josephus. What sort of a curriculum do you have in mind for the children of brass and iron? Woodwork? The School of Mechanics? Coal-mining?

J: If they show an aptitude for it, but in the new world we are moving into they are more likely to be working with calculators, keyboards and computers, and all the miraculous instruments of the technological and information revolutions.

P: But is not this just complicated typing and dressmaking, vocational training, and banalistic? I thought the point of the new technology was that it reduced work.

J: You may call it banalistic if you want, though I consider that a snobbish and elitist term. Our schools are too remote from industry and commerce, and tend to look down their academic noses at technical work. We must connect them to the labour market, and the imperatives of job creation.

P: Shall we teach the children of brass and iron to read and write, as well as to use computers?

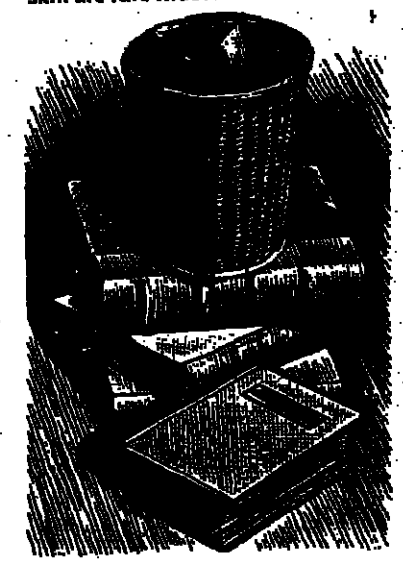
J: Don't come your old Socratic irony with me, Philip. Of course we shall teach them to read and write. But we shall do it better than at present, with more emphasis on correct formal grammar and spelling, and less on self-expression and poetry. There are good precedents for saying that poetry is an unsuitable subject to be taught in school.

P: It seems a pity, but I suppose you are right. Would you not agree that poetry, and for that matter Greek and Latin and Chaucer and Racine and Dante and Euclid, are good

preparations for putting up cheerfully with the lack of entrepreneurial earning-power in the marketplace to which they condemn you?

J: I think it is a very wet argument, Philip.

P: And is spelling really so important? I spent weary hours and weeks at prep school learning trick spelling lists, so that I can spell *eschscholtzia* and *diarrhoea* without a flicker of hesitation. But the opportunities I get to display this skill are rare indeed.



J: Bad spelling is slovenly, like egg stains on one's tie. It may not matter much in itself, but it is a symptom of the second rate, and gives a bad impression.

P: Samuel Johnson had notoriously dirty linen. He was a pretty good speller for his time. But what mattered about him was the breadth of his knowledge, acquired first of all at his local dame's school and then the grammar school. Can we not train the children to look up words like *eschscholtzia* in the dictionary?

J: But you do agree, don't you, O Philip, that we should teach our children to write proper English?

P: Yes, I do. But surely when we speak of an educated person, we mean somebody who loves wisdom: all wisdom, not just the fashionable or commercially exploitable sorts.

J: That kind of philosophical training will be available for the golden children at places like Cheltenham Ladies College and Eton College.

P: But how will these golden children get to these schools?

J: Why do you think they are called golden children? They will pay for it. Their parents will make sacrifices to send them there.

P: But what happens when the brass and iron classes produce a clever golden child? How can they afford or even want to send him away to such a place?

J: No doubt these academics are going to have to improve their scholarship.

P: The trouble with Plato is that he wrote like an angel, but his ideas led down the primrose path to Hegel, Marx, Hitler and other forms of the closed society. Education is not principally about equipping children for a technological and competitive world.

John O'Sullivan

Echoes of Dreyfus in the subway

New York

My first encounter with the Dreyfus case in school history lessons left me completely puzzled. It seemed on the surface to be a dispute about whether Dreyfus had been a spy and traitor. Yet most of his defenders and all of his critics seemed relatively uninterested in the fact of his guilt or innocence. They were determined to believe him guilty (or innocent) for quite other reasons - to preserve the honour of the French army, or to establish that no Jew could be a real Frenchman, or to halt the rise of the monarchist right, or to achieve any number of things that could not reasonably be decided by whether Dreyfus's conviction was upheld or overturned. Dreyfus, poor man, had been reduced to a symbol in a political struggle.

In New York if nowhere else, the Goetz affair is today taking on the same symbolic character. To oversimplify greatly, New York politics is a struggle which a conservative white middle and lower-middle class is pitted against an uneasy alliance of affluent white liberals and black and Hispanic political leaders. Since blacks and Hispanics account for more than 50 per cent of New York's population, why doesn't this alliance regularly triumph? The reasons are twofold. Many blacks and Hispanics sympathize more with their white conservative neighbours than with their media-appointed "leaders", particularly on issues like crime. Furthermore, the two communities tend to be politically apathetic, except when aroused by racial issues.

Bernard Goetz was arrested in January after shooting and injuring four blacks, who he said were about to mug him. The incident initially threw the political pattern into disarray by unfurling the subway-riding whites and blacks in noisy support of his action. So powerful was this public reaction that minority politicians, and white liberals generally, remained silent. It was in this atmosphere that the first grand jury determined, to the applause of the district attorney and local politicians - that Goetz should be charged only with a minor gun offence.

The first battle was over: could claim the honorable title of victim. To the subway-riding-class there was no doubt. Goetz was the victim who struck back and the four youths his tormentors.

Goetz was also white, however,

and the youths black. The idea that a white who shot four blacks could be a victim made white liberals very uneasy. So, since Goetz couldn't really be a victim, and since no social situation is complete without one, liberal opinion gradually concluded that the youths had to be victims.

Black politicians supported this trend by detecting racism. Opinion polls duly showed that black support for Goetz, though still substantial, had declined considerably.

Slowly, the conventional battle-lines, reformed, if a newspaper incautiously described the youths as "Goetz's victims", it would be inundated with letters from the subway conservatives protesting at this liberal usage. Goetz, first seen as the people's representative against the muggers, quickly became their spokesman against the liberal establishment.

Worse was to come. Goetz soon began to act out the role of public defender with speeches and meetings. Someone had to do what he had done, he would explain. They didn't protect the citizen any more, they didn't clean up the subways, they let us roam free, they cared more for the technical legal rights of the criminal than for obtaining justice for the victim.

Goetz may even have embarrassed the legal authorities into taking further action against him. In order to reopen a case before a second grand jury the district attorney, under New York law, must present new evidence not available to the first. If strong rumours are correct, the new evidence that formed the basis of the second grand jury (which subsequently indicted Goetz on a charge of attempted murder) rests heavily on the testimony of two of the shot youths. But was their testimony genuinely new? It had always been available, but for the first grand jury the district attorney had been unwilling to exchange it for immunity. Now that was on offer. Did that make it new in law? Lawyers are uneasy.

The battle-lines are conventionally drawn, but the battle cries are unusual. Liberals declare stoutly that Goetz shot four people and that legal technicalities cannot be allowed to obstruct justice. The subway conservatives mutter that there are extenuating circumstances in Goetz's case and ask despairingly: why should the law only be used against victims?



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PASSAGE THROUGH INDIA

Rarely, if ever, does a prime minister personally visit a country to reverse a deterioration in bilateral relations. When it does happen it is an unmistakable expression of the high regard in which one holds the other. This will clearly be the case when Mrs Thatcher arrives in New Delhi today. The task she faces is the restoration of the special link that has recently bound together the two Commonwealth countries. To do so, she will require all the tact and talent she can muster.

In the space of just five months the state of Indo-British relations has collapsed from the warm mutual affection the two women prime ministers shared for each other into the correct but cold formality of routine diplomacy. The process perhaps began last June when militant Sikhs in Britain voiced through this country's press and media their hostility to the Indian government's storming of the Golden Temple. Angered by Mrs Gandhi's government resorting to military action and the subsequent damage to the temple, several British Sikhs predicted, without any special foresight, that the event would augur ill for her. When, just months later, history bore them out, the Indian government was convinced they had had a part in it; in their eyes, the celebratory reaction of British Sikhs said it all. It was then that Indian wrath really broke upon the British for not taking effective measures to control and check such Sikh elements.

The response of the British government was to both publicly and repeatedly condemn the Sikh reactions of joy to Mrs Gandhi's assassination while also assiduously working behind the scenes to soothe the hurt and pain with solicitations of sympathy. It was not enough. The Indians demanded strong action against the Sikhs; but the problem for the British government was that they were neither able to prove their suspicions nor, with the passage of time, rise above them.

Yet, while the British government could do nothing more, its failure to act was mistaken by the Indians as unwillingness to do so. And, early this year, the latter began to translate into action their impatience with the British response. In rapid succession the scheduled visits of three cabinet rank ministers to New Delhi were postponed. Then, more tellingly, British contracts began to fall by the wayside, as decisions were postponed and at least one commitment to purchase £85 million of Westland helicopters seemingly reneged upon.

Soon, the bit began to bite, and steps to repair the relationship were set in motion by the Foreign Office. At first it was a low key strategy. Mr Michael Foot with his personal links with India's ruling family, was pressed into service and wrote directly to Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Coincidentally, the British police at home adopted a "hands on" policy towards Sikhs, stepping

up surveillance of them, and refusing permission for their processions and marches through London. The Indians noticed the change but were not particularly impressed.

Last month, the British government played its trump card: Mrs Thatcher herself stepped in. A brief stop over in Delhi on her way back from south east Asia was hurriedly arranged. In the Indian capital her mission will be to flatter the Indians into accepting that Britain has done, and is doing, all it can to contain Sikh militancy. Her method will be to try to create between herself and Mr Gandhi some of the personal relationship that existed between herself and his late mother.

Yet Mrs Thatcher can at best only half succeed. In Rajiv Gandhi she will find an unsentimental prime minister conscious of the economic realities underlying India's relationships with Britain. He will be willing to reactivate the sidelined contracts providing the terms are still right. Close economic ties should therefore be easy to restore. The stalled ministerial visits will also, no doubt, soon go ahead. But the personal equation will be a different matter. Margaret Thatcher, nearing 60; Rajiv Gandhi is only 40. A generation of tastes, ideas, and experience divides them. The two countries can settle back into a relationship which is solid, and steady; even if it is impersonal, it will be good to get back to that level.

BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

On Monday, Karen Quinlan will have been lying unconscious in a New Jersey nursing home for ten years. It is accepted by everyone connected with the case that she is never going to wake up from the deep coma she fell into in 1975. She is not the longest survivor in what is technically known as a persistent vegetative state: an eighteen-year coma was recorded in Scotland in the 1970s, and in 1978 there occurred the death of a middle-aged woman in Florida who had never regained consciousness after an appendix operation she had undergone as a child 37 years earlier, not long before Pearl Harbour. But Miss Quinlan is the most famous victim of this kind, because of the legal battles fought in the early months of her coma over whether to disconnect her breathing apparatus, and because the controversy drew public attention to the dilemmas raised by the growing ability of medical technology to keep patients alive far beyond any point where benefit can easily be discerned.

Medical knowledge still has its limitations, as was shown in Miss Quinlan's own case, when her parents won their court claim to have the respirator turned off because they felt it was causing her pain. Everyone had expected her to die as a result but she went on breathing, though she remains wholly dependent on feeding through a tube and on incessant nursing care. If there were a sure means of predicting whether recovery is possible in such cases at the start, the ethical difficulties would be less; in practice,

however, the chances become very slight indeed after two or three months. Long survival is rare even with the best of care: about 25 cases for every million population. A Japanese study suggests, but the situation is never the same as it is with "brain death" - a state of far more complete loss of brain function, which can be recognized as irreversible with as much certainty as ever exists in medicine. Miss Quinlan is apparently sleeping her last sleep, but she is certainly alive.

The decade in which she has existed without experience has seen many painful court cases turning on the right of doctors and families - and of society as a whole - to allow an ending to lives which have fallen into hopeless oblivion. Some of these cases have been in Britain, but most have been in America, where fear of litigation often induces doctors to inflict the utmost resources at their disposal on suffering and virtually hopeless victims. The trend, generally endorsed by the churches as well as the judges, has been towards a reader sanction for the abandonment of plainly futile struggles. A more recent decision by the New Jersey Supreme Court would allow feeding tubes to be removed from terminally ill patients, but Mr and Mrs Quinlan have not asked for this, as they do not feel that the tubes are causing their daughter any pain. But they do not mean to ask for extraordinary measures to be taken to combat the lung infections that periodically affect her.

BIDS FOR BESS'S BANTER

The skull over which Burbage declaimed "Alas, poor Yorick" on the first night of *Hamlet* at the Globe Theatre in 1602 was lost sight of long ago, probably cremated in one of those fires to which Elizabethan theatres, all thatch and timber, were so subject. The poisonous asp (leather stuffed with horsehair, perhaps) that the first boy Cleopatra applied to his padded bosom is also lost, as is the sheet that Shakespeare himself must have thrown over his head in his performance as the ghost of Hamlet's father. So is the gilt-and-cardboard chariot to which the first Tamburlaine harnessed three captured kings. It was not until a generation or two after the great age of the English stage that the sentimental custom of preserving thespian mementoes arose.

There is one single exception to the total oblivion which has fallen on all theatrical properties of the Elizabethan age and even that is not strictly a stage-prop. It is a handsome charter, written on vellum in a fine professional Chancery hand, and sealed with the actual Great Seal of the realm. But the spelling is wayward and archaic to a degree that must have seemed burlesque even in Elizabethan times, and the text is pure moonshine.

It is in fact a relic of a charade, a piece of country-house amateur theatricals of a kind which the Tudor court was inordinately fond. An evocative oddity rather than a major treasure, it was the

subject of an application for an export licence earlier this year, and the reviewing committee judged it important enough to recommend a three-month stay, which expires next month. In case any British institution wants to make a matching bid for its market price of £29,166. It is a measure of the hard choices that museums and libraries have to make these days that no move has apparently been made to retain it at that price.

It happens that the occasion when it was used is more fully recorded than most of the little such pantomimes of the period. Characteristically it was rather more than mere fun, and had serious political undertones. In 1591 the first Lord Burghley was feeling his age, depressed by bereavements, and eager to see his son accepted by the Queen as his successor in her closest confidence. He took to spending more and more time away from court in retirement at his country house of Theobalds. At last Elizabeth decided to descend on Theobalds with her enormous retinue, to cheer him up. When she arrived, the master of the house did not appear to greet her; instead, his son came out dressed up (to the mines, no doubt) as a simple hermit. He addressed her in high-flown verse, well-battered with the monstrous compliments the Queen so enjoyed, to announce that the landlord had moved into his contemplative cell, and instead sent him up to the house

to do the honours for the guests. Deciding not to be offended by the non-appearance of her host, the Queen must then have ordered the mock-charter to be drawn up and sent to the reluctant Burbage in his cottage; allegedly she composed it herself. It is a message to "our right trusty & right welbelov'd Sir William Sitsilt Kayght" (a queenly pun on Burbage's surname, Cecil), sympathizing with his sorrow "for looves greif bideth no compare" and imposing a sentence of banishment from his house on "desolation and mourning (the consumers of sweetmeats) to the frozen Seas and deserts of Arabia Petrosa". Whether this majestic banter wooed Burbage to appear is not recorded, but it is a matter of record that his son Robert, thus pushed forward, was knighted before the royal cavalcade moved on, and he began to be spoken of at court as the coming man.

And so with one smiling and one calculating eye the Elizabethans took their pleasure. Though much pleasanter, it must have been an occasion not wholly dissimilar to that other Royal Command performance put on as a play within a play just eleven years later, in which the heir presumptive writes some extra lines for the actors to con, containing a political message which causes the king to rise in horror, and break up the entertainment by bellowing for lights.

Farmers who help conservation

From Mr David Barker

Sir, Your letter from Lord Melchett and others of April 1 is certainly not true of all that is happening in East Anglia. A recent survey of all but three of 129 farmers in a 50 square mile area around Stanton in North Suffolk exposed the myths created by the extreme conservation lobby.

Almost 19 miles of hedgerow have been planted, against 4½ miles removed in the previous five years. Almost 74,000 trees have been planted in the same period. This equals a tree planted to every two acres farmed every year over the 50 square miles.

Woodland has increased by approximately 6.3 per cent or 77 acres. In addition, the survey highlighted the vast array of special habitats and the large amount of conservation work being done by farmers in the area.

No-one is complacent but there is a very large and growing number of farmers combining good farming with conservation. I earnestly believe that the cause of nature conservation is best served by encouraging the many positive things going on rather than a constant stream of anti-farming propaganda.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BARKER,
(County Chairman,
Suffolk Branch,
National Farmers' Union),
Kells House, Westthorpe,
Stowmarket, Suffolk,
April 9.

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, The assertion by Cathal O'Connor (April 8) that ivy-covered trees should be cut down because they are "dying anyway", must not go unchallenged. A heavy infestation will kill a tree eventually, but it will have lived and grown for decades.

The cure, in any case, is to destroy the ivy, not the tree. This is easily done by cutting through the ivy's stems near the ground.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.

Football hooliganism

From Mr David Simpson

Sir, I have no wish to be critical of the Government's approach to football hooliganism, but the following extract from the records of the Middlesex Sessions indicates that the problem may be more deeply rooted in our society than recent events and instant solutions tend to suggest.

20 March, 18 Elizabeth I
True Bill, that, on the said day, at Raystippe, in the Middlesex, Reynoldes husbandman, Robert Bate, woman, Edward Bennett woman, Richard Gaden, woman, John Murdoch husbandman, all of Raystippe aforesaid, Thomas Darcy of Woxbridge woman, and William Darcy tailor, Roger Okeley woman, Thomas Harker husbandman, Thomas Keron husbandman, Cybrens Alkyns husbandman, William Rayner husbandman, and Richard Parsonse husbandman, all seven of Woxbridge aforesaid, with unknown malefactors to the number of a hundred, assembled themselves unlawfully and played a certain unlawful game, called football, by reason of which unlawful game there rose amongst them a great affray, likely to result in homicides and serious accidents.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SIMPSON,
Clerk to the Justices,
Uxbridge Petty Sessions Division,
The Court House,
Harefield Road,
Uxbridge, Middlesex,
April 2.

Hunt injunction

From the Chairman of the British Field Sports Society

Sir, The claims of the League Against Cruel Sports reported in today's Times (April 3) give a wildly distorted view of the result of the Devon and Somerset Staghound case. The single and limited injunction obtained from five attempts will scarcely inconvenience the hunt at all and Mr Justice Park's definition of trespass provides clear and helpful guidance to masters of hounds everywhere.

No responsible master will encourage his hounds to trespass deliberately and he is thus bound to take reasonable steps to prevent this eventually. If he does he can rest assured that the position has in no way changed and that he will be prosecuted. The judgement takes full account of the practical difficulties involved and it is our lawyer's opinion that so far from stimulating a rash of injunctions against hunting it is more likely to deter anyone unwise enough to be tempted by the League Against Cruel Sports.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HASTINGS, Chairman,
British Field Sports Society,
59 Kennington Road, SE1,
April 3.

Easter message

From Mr J. A. Bleach

Sir, Your series of leading articles, "In Holy Week", seemed at first to be making a genuine effort to speak to real people in the real world, but then with the opening of your last article (April 6), "The modern cliché is to interpret the Resurrection as an experience of hope", the shutters came down again and we knew the professionals had taken over.

Christian churches are empty because they serve no useful function; the people who preach there are interested only in communicating with birds of the same feather, and they do not require so large a nest.

We of the post-holocaust world do not regard Christ's passion and death as in the least surprising; it is exactly what we would expect. We wept with Patton at Ohrdruf and with all of humanity at Auschwitz, but we know we are of the same species as the torturers in the concentration camps and the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia of the same species, too, as the millions dying of starvation today and tomorrow in Africa.

Above all, we bleed for our children and our children's children when we think of the strategy of MAD (mutual assured destruction)

Possibilities of the Severn bore

From Dr Michael Moore

Sir, The article by George Hill (April 4) leaves me agast at the prospect of continuing delay over a decision to harness one of our great natural resources of clean energy. I refer to the building of the Severn barrage.

The alternative to this imaginative scheme is the shameful waste of fossil fuels and reliance on an industry which has just suffered the longest major strike in history.

To leave the great tidal forces in the Bristol Channel untapped is to be guilty of irresponsible laissez-faire. Not only do they offer a wonderful source of power but they do not require man to be moles or expose us to the problems presently associated with nuclear sources.

Besides this there are great collateral benefits in flood control, irrigation, fisheries, shipping and recreation, to say nothing of the jobs created both in its construction and operation.

Let us exercise our minds and skills in doing something of which this country can be proud, free from pollution or despoliation. Now is the time to act and to give our civil engineers an opportunity to turn the tide on recession.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MOORE,
Church House,
Griffiths,
Chippingham,
Wiltshire,
April 4.

From Mr Fred Rowbotham

Sir, Referring to Mr George Hill's article on the Severn bore it is necessary to state that the construction of a barrage across the Severn estuary would not necessarily eliminate bores. While drawing heavily on my book *The Severn Bore*, Mr Hill overlooked my paragraph on the operation of the tidal model constructed by Sir Claude Inglis at the Hydraulics Research Station at Wallingford to study the 1945 Severn barrage proposal and on which I observed the bore to be substantially unaffected by the operation of the barrage, sited in this case at English Stones.

In common with many people Mr Hill wrongly assesses the effect of a tidal barrage. An essential function of such a barrage is to admit the tide as rapidly and completely as possible in order to re-fill the reservoir for the next cycle of electricity generation, thus creating the condition necessary for bore formation.

Cost-effective advice

From Mr A. Cockerill

Sir, Douglas Wass's interesting proposal (feature, April 4) for a standing royal commission (SRC) to give independent analysis of policy issues runs the risk of setting up a cumbersome and expensive bureaucracy while under-valuing the potential of the existing parliamentary select committees.

It is true that the reports of the committees are, generally, under-researched, hurriedly written, seldom debated in the House and attempt to capture all shades of opinion represented by their members. Their strengths are that ministers and Civil Servants are held directly to account, written and oral evidence is taken from other interested parties who are thus given direct access to Parliament, and the proceedings are usually held in public, are published soon after, and are widely reported.

The quality and effectiveness of the committees' work could be

furthermore the area of water impounded by the barrage would not be a "relatively tideless" lake or inland sea because the other prime function of a barrage is to return the impounded water to the sea in driving the turbines.

In fact, apart from housing the turbines and sluiceways, a tidal barrage simply detains the tide at high water level above the barrage until the free tide below has ebbed sufficiently to create a working head, i.e. a difference in level, to operate the turbines.

From then on until approaching low water the levels above and below the barrage fall relative to each other throughout the generating part of the cycle. At low water the head is lost, generating ceases and it may well be the practice at that stage to open all sluiceways to evacuate the residue of impounded water in the hope of flushing out deposits of silt. All sluice capacity would then be left open to admit the next tide. Thus, if full advantage is taken of the available tidal energy there is no question of creating any sort of relatively tideless inland sea.

Admittedly any alteration of bore characteristics would depend on the siting, design and operation of the barrage, but the admission and evacuation of tides is universally essential.

Yours faithfully,
FRED ROWBOTHAM,
Park House,
76 High Street,
Stonhouse,
Gloucestershire,
April 6.

From Mr F. G. St Clair Strange

Sir, In the article by George Hill it is stated that there is a bore "on the Yangtze which reputedly has the largest bore of all".

Having been a resident in Hangchow between the wars, and having seen it personally, I can assure you that the world's largest bore is not on the Yangtze but on the Chien Tang river, which is about 120 miles south of the Yangtze. This bore may reach 25 ft in height at Haining, where the river is a mile wide, so that it is considerably greater than the Severn bore.

Yours faithfully,
F. G. ST CLAIR STRANGE,
Church Hill House,
Harbledown,
Canterbury,
Kent,
April 5.

greatly improved by two initiatives. First, a modest increase in the amount of impartial specialist advice (committees typically have the services of a single adviser for not more than one day a week). Second, following the US Congressional pattern, the preparation and publication of staff reports on relevant topics.

In preparing their own reports the committees would be free to accept, reject or qualify the findings of the specialist researchers and to place a cross-party political interpretation on the results of the analyses. Such developments would seem likely to be more cost-effective and to offer a greater check on the executive than would the SRC.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY COCKERILL,
Department of Management Sciences,
The University of Manchester
Institute of Science and Technology,
PO Box 88,
Manchester,
April 4.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 13 1961

Colonel Yuri Gagarin, the world's first cosmonaut, was killed when his two-seater jet crashed at Kirzhatsk on March 28, 1968. He was 34 years old. His historic achievement is still celebrated in Russia where April 12 is the "Cosmonauts' Day".

WORLD ACCLAIM FOR SPACE EXPLORER

At 07.07 (British Summer Time) yesterday the Soviet Union fired the first man into space. One hundred and thirty minutes later, after circling the earth once, 37-year-old Major Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin landed at "a predetermined spot" in the Soviet Union. After the "cosmonaut's" landing the Soviet Communist Party and Government issued a statement proclaiming Russia's lead in the space race and appealing for world peace and disarmament.

Moscow took on an excited May Day aspect. All Russia (says Reuters) went wild with joy over the epoch-making voyage of the man whom Moscow radio called the Columbus of the Interplanetary Age.

Major Gagarin will probably be in Moscow tomorrow to receive the plaudits of Moscow and the world. He was already being showered with honours yesterday. He was awarded the title of "Master of Radio State of the Soviet Union". Russian statements, however, emphasized the collective nature of the space triumph and claimed it is a victory of the socialist system.

PROGRESS REPORTS

It was at 07.58 (B.S.T.) that Tass announced that the first man had been put into space. Moscow radio interrupted its programmes to give the news.

This was the sequence of events and the reports from Gagarin quoted by the radio.

07.07.-The spaceship, weighing 4,725 kilograms (about 10 tons), was launched by rocket into an elliptical orbit with greatest height 187 miles and least 109 miles. The inclination of the orbit to the equator was 34 deg. 4 min. The period of revolution was 89 min, 6 sec.

07.22-Gagarin reported by radio that he was over South America and said: "Flight is proceeding normally. I feel well."

08.15-Gagarin reported over Africa: "I am in a wonderful state of weightlessness well. He also reported over Asia Minor."

08.25.-The space ship's braking system was put into operation and Gagarin began his descent.

08.55.-The space ship landed safely and Gagarin said on landing: "Please report to the Party and Government and personally to Nikita Khrushchev that the landing was normal. I feel well. I have no injuries or bruises. The completion of the flight in space opens new perspectives in the conquering of the cosmos."

While in flight, Tass said, Gagarin carried out direct two-way "cosmonaut" radio communications for the first time in history by means of short and ultra-short waves.

"BLUEISH" EARTH

A special correspondent of *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, who was at the landing place of the spaceship, did not give details of Gagarin's landing but reported: "The landing was excellent, and Yuri Gagarin did not wait for a helicopter. Instead, he walked out to meet the people who spotted him in the sky."

The correspondent said that Gagarin was taken by helicopter to a point where he received Mr Khrushchev's congratulations by telephone. The correspondent said that Gagarin told the waiting people: "The sky is very, very dark and the earth is blueish. Everything is clearly visible."

This is how the correspondent described his first sight of Gagarin: "Smiling, smiling, a truly happy man, he was coming down the gangway of the aircraft. He was wearing light blue, sky-coloured overalls and a flying helmet. People struggled to embrace him, they congratulated him and kissed him."

Science research funds

From Professor D. Noble, F.R.S.

Sir, Sir Douglas Hague, in your feature "Industry Today" (April 3), offers "analysis" in reply to my "rhetoric". But he makes no reference to the statistics on science and education funding that I and others analysed before and during the Oxford debate, nor does he provide any himself.

It is, for example, hardly "analysis" to refer to the complication, when comparing research and development spending as a fraction of GNP, that much of this research is military, without giving the facts that show that Britain is the only western European nation to spend more than 50 per cent of its R & D budget on military work. The comparable percentages for Germany and Japan are negligible.

Anyone reading Mr Douglas's article could be forgiven for thinking that such analysis would "redress the balance" of the comparison rather than make it even worse.

The problem is not whether we can afford to rectify the damage being done to Britain's science and technology research. We can. That is just a matter of getting priorities right. It is rather whether we can "strengthen the link between scientific research and industrial application" if we continue to weaken the support of basic research.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS NOBLE,
University Laboratory of Physiology,
Parks Road,
Oxford.

Conditioned reflex

From Mrs Patricia Hochstrosser

Sir, Some 46 years ago a strange young man kicked me (accidentally, I think) on the shin as we passed in a newsagent's shop. I apologised.

Sir, I married him, and after 45 happy years commend to your readers the practice of indiscriminate apology. It pays.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA HOCHSTROSSER,
14 Myrtle Close,
Northwood,
Middlesex,
April 1.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Bank keeps fence round its own back yard

The Bank of England's paper on the future structure of the gilt-edged market, published yesterday, should be eagerly sought by a far wider audience than its immediate catchment area of those organizations which have a continuing wish to participate in that market beyond the "big bang" day due to fall in October next year.

The reason for that wider interest lies in the glimpse of how life in the securities industry as a whole will operate in the new scheme of things. It promises to be a world in which self-regulation is pursued as far as possible within the ethos of free competition, and in which therefore the embryonic Securities and Investment Board is as underemployed as possible.

The speedy way in which the Bank moved to assume control of the new gilt-edged market effectively ensured that these twin aims would substantially be met. To that extent, the Bank and Stock Exchange have had an easier task than the Stock Exchange will have in the respect of equities. Both the national interest and the Bank's position as market supervisor and chief issuing house saw to that. But several interesting precedents have been created.

The first, in relation to the SIB, is that in the event of a disagreement over questions of principle the Bank has undertaken to do no more than "seek the opinion" of the SIB and take full account of such opinion. This does not commit it to much, particularly as the Bank has already arranged a substantial say in the selection of members of the SIB. Only thereafter would any still unresolved issue be referred to what the document calls as "an appeal body". It is instructive that that reference is as vague as it is, given that the Department of Trade and Industry has already made provision for a tribunal to sit in judgment on appeals. It will be a brave, and indeed possibly foolhardy, company that takes matters so far on the gilt front.

Secondly, the Bank is taking steps to set up a settlement system which is "Telecom-proof". One unsought effect of the wide success of the British Telecommunications flotation was the problem of fitting a large number of first-time investors into the existing system, which assumed a club-like degree of knowledge and shared view of how things should be done. No one is suggesting that gilt will be confronted with quite those problems, but there is clearly a need for a system capable of dealing with all-comers. The Bank proposes irrevocable instructions for payment for stock to be generated instantaneously by computer. Equity dealers please copy.

Applications by those firms wishing to become market makers - the equivalent of US primary dealers - must be in by May 3. As indicated in these columns, the initial list of successful applicants will be published in mid-June or soon after, enabling the Bank to take cognizance of the Stock Exchange's membership vote on June 4.

BHP searches for identity

The joint Broken Hill Proprietary/Shell bid for the Australian Woodside group is a pretty friendly affair, more in sorrow than in anger, as the two main parties mop up the weak financial link in the consortium to develop the second \$A10 billion (\$5.5 billion) phase of the North West shelf project to tap its potential to supply liquefied natural gas to Japan. Yesterday's agreement between the bidders and Woodside over the interim board representation emphasizes that. Moreover, the two shared 42.6 per cent of Woodside's equity, have just bought a further 3 per cent and are not particularly anxious to gain more acceptances from the bid than would be needed for majority control.

Vatican said to be selling bank stock

By Our Banking Correspondent

Chase Manhattan Bank refused all comment yesterday on reports that it has reached an outline agreement with the Vatican Bank to buy out its 51 per cent stake in a Swiss-based bank for about \$100 million (\$80 million).

The Vatican Bank or Istituto per le Opere di Religione (IOR) is reported to have broadly agreed the sale of its stake in Banco di Roma per la Svizzera in order to allow the cost of the settlement it had to make as a result of the Banco Ambrosiano affair.

Although the IOR never admitted any responsibility for the collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano of Milan it was known to be heavily involved in the affair.

The IOR finally agreed last year to pay \$244 million to creditors of the collapsed bank.

Last year, the IOR raised about \$41 million by selling its stake in a construction company and it is also said to have raised a like amount from gold sales.

The Banco di Roma owns the other 49 per cent of Banco di Roma per la Svizzera.

It has officially denied any intention of selling its stake in the bank, despite speculation that it is also negotiating with Chase Manhattan.

The semi-accidental nature of this expansion may seem odd when BHP, by far Australia's biggest company, is anxiously thinking out its long-term strategy. The cheeky bid from the ever-ambitious Robert Holmes & Court set off this soul-searching as BHP's top men were forced to admit privately that the financier's notion of making a fast turn by breaking up the oil, coal, copper and steel group into its component parts was perfectly possible, and that BHP's great move into oil and gas had left it with a long-run lack of identity.

Although about some two thirds of BHP's profit now comes from oil, mainly from the Bass Strait reserves developed with Esso, it is still mainly an investor in oil rather than a true oil company.

BHP's big effort to expand outside Australasia has centred on the Americas: coal in the United States and a great copper prospect in Chile. The group is certainly considering some involvement in North Sea exploration - again as investor rather than operator. The question is whether Australia's lonely giant will use its \$3 billion plus capitalization to buy one of the lesser, presumably US, integrated oil groups and place itself firmly among the oil-based multinationals. If BHP is not to remain prey to opportunist attacks, it needs to establish itself one way or another as an international equity, rather than simply the foreigner's punt on the Australian market, however profitable that may be when portfolio managers are looking for any hedge against dollar investments.

Schroders links to both sides in bid

Matthew Brown, the Lancashire brewer could hardly have chosen a more highly motivated merchant bank than Schroders to help it fight off the unwanted \$100 million takeover bid from Scottish & Newcastle Breweries. Five months ago, Schroders was dismissed as adviser to S & N as part of a general clear-out by Mr Alick Rankin, the managing director.

Mr Rankin concedes that he was not aware that Matthew Brown was one of Schroders' corporate clients when he made his bid and admits to a slight anxiety that knowledge built up about S & N over the years could be used against the company in Brown's forthcoming defence document.

Such fears are heightened by the presence on Matthew Brown's board as a non-executive director of William Wiltshire, who until two years ago was S & N's financial adviser at Schroders.

Mr Rankin said: "Provided that Schroders act with the discretion that I am certain they have, I see no reason for complaint about this and I am sure that the bank would not take advantage of any inside knowledge they have about us."

Undoubtedly Schroders has such knowledge. The merchant bank helped with S & N's ultimately unsuccessful bid last July for the Hartlepool-based brewer J W Cameron.

The current bid for Matthew Brown is intended to fill the hole in corporate strategy left by the failure to acquire Cameron.

Schroders also helped S & N to draw up its own defensive strategy for use in the event of a bid. "We would certainly know if they were digging into that", Mr Rankin said.

The response from Schroders is predictable. "It goes without saying that information we have on one client would never be used on behalf of another. It is surprising how quickly information becomes out of date", Mr Nicholas Jones said.

This is the sort of anomaly that the new Takeover Code, to be published next Friday, is expected to deal with.

Executives' pay jumps at Jaguar

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The chairman and executive directors of Jaguar have been awarded maximum bonuses and new share options to reflect the company's record profit performance last year.

Jaguar's annual report, the first since the company's privatization last summer, shows that the company has 54,000 shareholders, compared with 125,000 after its flotation in July.

According to the report, Mr

The cost of borrowing at two of the big clearing banks edged down again yesterday as Barclays, followed by the Midland, cut their base rate by half a percentage point, from 13.25 to 12.75 per cent.

Their move leaves the big clearing banks still charging different rates. National Westminster and Lloyds both reduced their base rates to 13 per cent last month and were reviewing the position yesterday.

The decision by Barclays and Midland was taken because of the pound's firm performance on the foreign exchanges and the recent easing in money market rates.

National Westminster and Lloyds may decide to fall in line or even reduce base rates to

12.5 per cent before long if the pound stays firm. But the Bank of England was giving out clear signals in the markets yesterday that it did not want any hasty moves.

However, there was no suggestion that the authorities were unhappy at the Barclays move. If external conditions stay favourable, the possibility of the Bank of England according to market pressure for a further slight easing in rates before long is not being ruled out.

The pound took yesterday's rate cuts in its stride. Although it eased against some Continental currencies, it gained more than half a cent against a weak dollar and the sterling index closed up 0.2 at 78.4, the highest since the middle of last year.

The dollar barely reacted to

yesterday's American economic statistics showing that inflation, as measured by the producer price index, rose a modest 0.2 per cent last month. This was the largest increase this year but well within market expectations.

The March increase followed a 0.1 per cent gain in the index in February and no advance at all in January. The Labour Department reported. This year, inflation at the wholesale level has been growing at an annual rate of 0.3 per cent, the smallest rate in 20 years.

The modest gain in inflation, coupled with another increase in the US money supply last week by \$1.8 billion, failed to move markets. Analysts remain convinced that the American economy is slowing and that the

US Federal Reserve Board, which acts as a central bank, will be forced to take an accommodating monetary line.

Mr Henry Kaufman, the chief economist of Salomon Brothers, predicted in his latest report that the Fed will soon take steps to ease credit policies further because of its concern over sluggish economic activity and its belief that inflation will remain low.

Although some economists expect the American economy to move strongly ahead in the second quarter, reflecting rapid growth in the money supply over the last six months, others are in doubt, citing the surprising seven-year drop in retail sales last month.

Tempus, page 13

Lloyd's pitches for China business

By John Lawless

Mr Peter Miller, the chairman of Lloyd's of London, is to lead an insurance mission to China next week in the hope of doubling China's share of business in Britain.

Lloyd's earns about \$125m (£100m) in premiums from China a year, 37 per cent of the international business by the People's Insurance Company of China (PICC).

The visit, which has taken a year to arrange, is particularly opportune. The Chinese leadership indicated last week that it is preparing to open up the insurance market within China by decreasing that any Chinese organization with Yuan 30 million (£5.68m) in their bank accounts, can set up a life insurance business while those with Y20 million can establish a general insurance firm.

This will almost certainly result in such cities as Shanghai setting up their own insurance operations. Although Lloyd's companies would obviously be excluded from direct participation, the competition carries the attraction of a greatly enhanced level of reinsurance business.

It is significant that the Lloyd's mission is likely to have talks with the Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, an accolade denied to the mission of senior British industrialists, led by Lord Young, which went to China last month.

A remarkable aspect of the visit is that it has been organized by the small broking firm of Berry, Palmer & Lyle (BPL), which has yet to be officially recognized as a broker by Lloyd's.

It was approached by Mr Miller to arrange the meeting because one of the three founders, Mr Robert Lyle, is one of the most active British businessmen in the Chinese market. He visited China every month, except August, last year and has been there six times this year.

Yesterday it announced a new subsidiary, BPL (China) Ltd, which will act as a consultant to companies involved in the Chinese market, charging \$1,000 a day for Mr Lyle's advice.

Mr Lyle, who first visited China in 1973, has hired a Trident aircraft from the Chinese Air Force to fly his party around several cities. The delegates include Mr Colin Murray, of R J Kiln, Mr David Brewer, of Sedgewicks, which has an office in Beijing, Mr Michael Faber, of Willis Faber, and Mr John Nightingale, of C T Bowring.

Mr Egan says that the prospects for 1985 are encouraging, with demand for Jaguar cars likely to continue to exceed supply. He said the board is satisfied with the progress of development and testing programme of the Jaguar's new model, the XJ40.

Of the surviving shareholders, about 46,000 hold fewer than 500 shares. The company estimates that as much as 25 per cent of the shares are held in the US.

OECD fails to fix trade talks

From Eduardo Cue Paris

The annual ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ended yesterday with general agreement on the way in which the main economic problems should be tackled but without setting a date for a new round of trade talks.

The final communique issued at the end of the two-day session of the 24-member countries emphasized that need to reduce budget deficits and tackle unemployment without resorting to inflationary policies.

In his speech to the meeting, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, said unemployment "remains an acute social and political problem" that carries the added danger of too much inflation in an effort to combat it.

"In general, concerted re-



Nigel Lawson: "concerted reflation will mean concerted inflation"

flation will simply mean concerted inflation. That is the last thing we want," he said. The way to tackle the issue was through remedies for the structural distortions in the economy that prevent the

labour market from working better.

Failure to set a date for the new round of trade talks followed French insistence that such negotiations must be accompanied by monetary discussions.

The French view, expressed by the finance minister, M Pierre Berégovoy, remained unchanged even as the new American Treasury Secretary, Mr James Baker, called for a special high level meeting to review the world monetary structure. The Americans have previously paid no more than lip service to monetary reform.

The French want the decision on the date for the second round of commercial talks, better known as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, to be announced at the Bonn summit of industrialized nations in three weeks, according to a highly placed British source.

Booker and Dee raise profit forecasts

By Jeremy Warner

Booker McConnell, the cash and carry to agriculture and health products group, yesterday strengthened its defence against Dee Corporation's unwanted £337 million takeover bid with a forecast that pretax profits this year will rise by about 22 per cent to £45 million.

At the same time, Dee increased the pressure on

Booker by revising its own forecast of profits for the year to the end of this month from £56 million to £64 million. Dee's 125-for-100 share exchange offer closes next Friday.

The new Dee forecast was criticized by Mr Jonathan Taylor, Booker's managing director, on the grounds that almost all the increase had been achieved by adding in excep-

tional property profits. "If we had played Dee's game at Booker, we could have shown an enormous rise in profits," he said.

Booker pointed out that property profits were not a material factor in its profits for 1984 or its forecast of profits for this year.

It said that much growth was expected from agribusiness

IN BRIEF

Entrad lifts Tootal stake

Entrad, the Australian textile group, bidding for Tootal, bought more than 35 million Tootal shares in the market yesterday taking its stake to 26 per cent. The buying was done at the bid price of 72.5p cash plus the promised 1.37p new second interim dividend.

Entrad hopes to buy up the permissible 39.9 per cent limit before next Thursday's closing date.

Tootal was undismayed by the success of Entrad's buying spree. The chairman, Mr Alan Wagstaff, said the weaker brethren had been shaken out, but he was confident the main institutional shareholders will stand by the company on the basis of the profits forecast of £27 million pretax this year and prospective 7.6 per cent yield.

Market report, page 13

Kwik Save up

Kwik Save Discount Group, the grocery supermarket operator, has increased pretax profits in the 26 weeks to February 23 to £15.4 million, up from £14.3 million. Sales rose from £309.5 million to £336.5 million. The interim dividend is increased to 1.4p from 1.3p last time.

Tempus, page 13

Vaux buys hotel

Vaux Breweries has acquired the three-star 71-bedroom Kingsmill Hotel in Inverness for £3.35 million. The deal brings to 32 the number of hotels owned by Vaux in Britain.

Dealings in shares of Grosvenor Square Properties on the Unlisted Securities Market, were halted yesterday, pending agreement over the acquisition of a privately owned property company. The directors said negotiations were at an advanced stage and details would be announced shortly.

Hawker ahead

Hawker Siddeley, the engineering group, increased 1984 pretax profits to £151.5 million, from £137.5 million. Turnover rose from £1,457 million to £1,600 million. A final dividend of 7.7p makes 11.8p for the year, against 11p last time.

Tempus, page 13

Brazil surplus

Brazil's trade surplus narrowed to \$830 million (\$669 million) last month from \$1,016 billion a year ago, according to the country's Export-Import Bureau.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Entrad steps up Tootal stake to 26%

By Derek Pain and Alison Eadie

The Australian textile group Entrad came much closer to its quarry Tootal yesterday, when it snapped up more than 35 million shares in the stock market to take its stake to more than 26 per cent.

Cazenove, he broker, went in to buy just after 10am and was still buying on the close at the bid price of 72.5p cash per share, plus the promised 1.87p net second interim dividend. Entrad had a stake of 5.87p net second interim dividend. Entrad had a stake of 5.87p net second interim dividend. Entrad had a stake of 5.87p net second interim dividend.

Tootal's share price jumped 6p to 75p on news of Entrad's buying. The bid has all the signs of being a cliffhanger in its final stages with sentiment finely divided on the relative merits of the two parties.

Tootal remains confident, despite the buying foray, that it has sufficient institutional support to see off the Australians. Income funds particularly are expected to stay with Tootal, because of the above average yield.

However, Entrad's managing director Mr Rod Hartley, an ex-Tootal man, can also count on some strong support, particularly for his marketing skills.

Entrad's final offer circular went out yesterday. It repeated its attack on Tootal's profits and dividend forecasts. Tootal

again described its forecasts as conservative.

Equities finished the drab three-week account with a flourish. At the close, the FT 30 share index was registering a 10.4-point gain, its best advance since mid-March, to 967.8.

The more broadly based FT SE share index, at one time nursing a fall, finished 6.5 points higher at 7,275.8.

New-time buying was one factor behind the market's modest revival. But the two base rate cuts, and the continuing decline in money market rates, also helped sentiment.

Hambros Bank placed 1.8 million shares in Norscot Hotels at 113p each yesterday. The company has eight Scottish country hotels and one in the Lake District. Profits last year were £495,000 and the shares were sold, assuming a notional 35 per cent tax charge, at 16.1 times earnings. The cash raised repays borrowings incurred by Norscot and its parent company Burnthills, a diversified group controlled by Mr Peter Ross, chairman of Norscot. Dealings start on Thursday.

Government stocks had a good session, recording gains of up to 1p in places. The Government Broker sold some of his staple, Exchequer 10½ per cent, 1997, at £97 ¼. The new Treasury stock opened at £79 ¼.

As befits the last day of an account, takeover stocks attracted attention. Debenhams, Mr Ivan Bosky, the American arbitrage expert, who intervened in the earlier battle for PCO, is thought to have sold most of the shares he acquired during the CCL bid.

Tricentral shares close unchanged at 256p, recovering an early fall. Burnmah Oil continued to draw support from its figures, gaining 12p to 233p.

continued to win support. After throwing off an early bout of profit taking, which took the price to 241p, the shares moved ahead strongly, closing at 248p, yet another new peak.

Mr David Hillyard, a Debenhams director, said that there was no evidence of any share stake building. He added: "There has been no approach and no discussions are going on."

Talks between Sir Terence Conran, chairman of Habitat Mothercare, and Mr Robert Thornton, Debenhams chairman, did take place earlier this year.

Benalls, the Kingston upon Thames store, could not stand the pace. After crossing the £1 mark on Thursday, it fell back to 97p.

The MFI stores group came in for a late run. In a market caught short of stock, the shares bounced 32p to 257p. Grattan, the mail order group, continued to score from broker talk-ins, rising 8p to 122p.

There was excitement on the oil pitch as talk flowed that Tricentral, as part of its endeavours to ward off any aggressive attentions from Enterprise Oil, was planning a bid for Premier Consolidated Oilfields. As a prelude, ran the story, it was planning to buy the 11 per cent PCO shareholding held by Carless, Capel and Leonard which made an unsuccessful bid for PCO.

PCO shares, also helped by talk of an oil find, jumped 7½p to 54p. CCL gained 8p to 151p. Mr Ivan Bosky, the American arbitrage expert, who intervened in the earlier battle for PCO, is thought to have sold most of the shares he acquired during the CCL bid.

Tricentral shares close unchanged at 256p, recovering an early fall. Burnmah Oil continued to draw support from its figures, gaining 12p to 233p.

Old bid favourites Stock Conversion and Investment Trust bounced to yet new heights, adding on 23p to 471p. The two most likely predators, according to the market are Slough Estates and Stockley.

Mr James Campbell, managing director of Stock Conversion, said he had had no idea why the share prices should have jumped.

The bid rumours started last November when the former chairman and joint founder, Mr Robert Clark, died. This encouraged speculation that a

takeover might succeed. A price of 500p has been talked of as a realistic bid price, based on a published net asset value of 483p.

Higgs & Hill rose another 5p to 328p on continuing hopes that Trafalgar House might launch a bid. Trafalgar House refused to comment on rumours that it had purchased a near 5 per cent stake in Higgs & Hill from Barratt Developments.

Mass Bros bounced 28p higher to 383p in a thin market and in sympathy with the firm's stores sector.

William Baird added 22p to 370p on comment following its results.

Glaxo gained 2p to 1080 ahead of interim results next Monday. Millford Docks continued to gain on speculative demand adding 5p to 71p.

Pearl Assurance rose yet again adding 20p to 1128p on bid rumours.

bookings after a poor start to the season. Avon Rubber gained 23p to 301p after a broker's visit.

CPS Computers Group eased 2p to 118p as three directors - and a former director sold between them more than 1.7 million shares at 117½p a share.

BOC Group held at 275p as a line of shares went through the market and Thorn EMI improved 14p to 411p on suggestions of a £5 a share bid from Phillips, the Dutch electrical giant.

Cookson Group, which recently announced much better-than-expected results, was still in demand, rising 7p to 695p. An investment seminar arranged by W. Greenwell, the broker, is expected next week.

Extel Group, which is subject to recurring bid rumours, was 20p higher at 320p. Applied Holographics fell 10p to 220p as Mr S. Roger and Mr B. Snyder left the board. Mr Rogers, a former chairman, stays as a consultant.

Ranks Hovis McDougall gained 6p to 152p on speculation that S & W Berisford had found a buyer for its near 15 per cent stake. Berisford has been reported as looking to sell its stake for several months. RHM, a subject of much bid speculation, has climbed steadily from 100p last September.

Mass Bros bounced 28p higher to 383p in a thin market and in sympathy with the firm's stores sector.

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Pearl Assurance rose yet again adding 20p to 1128p on bid rumours.

TEMPUS

Hawker works its way back into favour

After the disappointment of Hawker Siddeley's interim performance and the subsequent battering which the share price took, the company has been working hard at restoring its credibility with the City. That work was consolidated yesterday with the announcement of preliminary pretax profits of £151.5 million, up from £137.5 million.

The figure was well ahead of most forecasts, which had been downgraded to about £140 million at the time of the interim, but the difference was largely due to currency. The analysts were much more forgiving about Hawker's declining their forecasts than they were when it became clear that the original estimates of up to £160 million would not be met.

More important though, is a new-found confidence in the company's prospects. The 1984 performance, particularly in Britain had been depressed by three non-recurring problems, the elimination of which should combine to provide a stronger year. The end of the miners' strike, an upturn in the power engineering business and contract completions at Westinghouse will all contribute to improved profits in 1985.

The order books are also looking more healthy than a year ago and in real terms are up by 10 per cent. Although the general trading outlook is far from dynamic, and there are areas which remain quite depressed, the underlying message remains one of steady growth on most fronts.

Hawker Siddeley is also blessed with a strong balance sheet. It had net cash of £111 million at the year end, down by £7.7 million, and has substantial

borrowing facilities. A sizeable acquisition, preferably in the US and geared towards the consumer end of the market, could be a further feature of the current year, and could be achieved without stretching finances too seriously.

The shares have not recouped the 54p shed on the day of the interim announcement but they have been moving in the right direction. Yesterday's figures helped the price up another 26p to 437p. With profits of £170 million in sight for the present year, the shares still look cheap.

What is the answer? posed Gertrude Stein, following this with the even more gnomic: "But what is the question?"

The Government Broker plainly spent yesterday afternoon absorbed by market questions of similar philosophical profundity. He failed to keep his Friday afternoon trust with the market, leaving the traders bereft of clues about the funding programme.

It is hard to quarrel with the Government Broker's decision to remain invisible. He had a reasonably good day yesterday on the pitch, completing the sale of his medium tablet, Exchequer 10½ per cent 1997. But significantly, he failed to sell out his longer-dated stock, Conversion 9½ 2004, raising doubts about the most fashionable area of the yield curve. Have the ultra-longs lost their glamour?

Possible developments next week in the United States may have prompted the authorities to blow the official raspberry. Wall Street is now full of analysts who claim that final first quarter GDP figures, due

out next Thursday, will be revised downwards, perhaps to as low as 1½ per cent annualized.

This slowdown will increase pressure on the Fed to ease its monetary stance, and get the flagging US economy moving ahead, if only to head off Congress in its heavily protectionist mood.

Markets reacted in a flash this week to the poor US retail sales. The dollar weakened, and sterling strengthened because of the pound's counter-vailing appeal as a high interest rate currency. Next week could see a repeat performance.

Hence the authorities' cautionary approach to rates on the one hand, now that a totally confusing two-tier structure has been erected, and their refusal to drop clues in the bond market. Left to its own devices, the yield curve might well steepen in the mid-nineties area, making it look even more anomalous than it does now.

The success of Kwik Save Discount has been attributable largely to its ability to keep sales volumes increasing steadily. Any slowdown hampers profits, and yesterday's first-half pretax profits of £15.4 million, up from £14.3 million, reflect this.

The miners' strike, delays in the stores opening programme, and the impact of cheap fresh produce prices all took their toll. Sales increased by only 8.7 per cent and of this only 1 per cent was genuine growth.

The shares closed down 2p at 186p. It might take better full-time figures to push the price higher.

Traded option highlights

The London traded option market had a good day with 6,587 contracts exchanged. Most popular group was Marks and Spencer. It attracted 359 calls and 621 puts.

British Telecom was the subject of 375 bargains and Commercial Union 320.

The gilts contract had 236 calls and 191 puts.

Midland Bank Interest Rates

Base Rate

Decreases by 0.5% to 12.75% per annum with effect from 12th April 1985.

Deposit Accounts

Interest on Deposit Accounts decreases by 0.5% to 7.0% net p.a. with effect from 12th April 1985.

For those customers who receive interest gross, the rate decreases to 9.36% p.a.

Save and Borrow Accounts

Interest on credit balances decreases to the above Deposit Rate with effect from 13th May 1985 and interest charged on overdrawn balances remains at 23.0% p.a. APR 25.0%.

Monthly Income Accounts

With effect from 12th April 1985 the interest decreases by 0.5% to 9.0% net per annum.

For those customers who receive interest gross, the rate decreases to 12.04% p.a.



Midland Bank
Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

COMPANY	OTC ISSUE PRICE	DATE	OPENING STOCK EXCHANGE PRICE	DATE	LATEST PRICE
FALCON RESOURCES	25p	June 1983	110p	July 1984	450p
APPLIED HOLOGRAPHICS	25p	April 1983	180p	June 1984	250p
MEMCOM INTERNATIONAL	81p	Sept 1983	323p	Feb 1985	285p
EATLAST					E+OE

In learning to assess and accept the higher risks associated with backing young companies via the Over The Counter market, small private investors are now sharing the higher rewards which were formerly the domain of merchant banks and other institutions providing ground-floor investment.

Afor Investments Limited sponsored the original issue of Memcom International at 81p and have a full programme of equally promising OTC issues scheduled for 1985.

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A few weeks ago Barings acquired full ownership of Henderson Baring Management Limited, and changed its name to Baring International Investment Management Limited.

Only HBM's name has changed - the established management, with its wide experience of equity markets in Japan and the Far East, remains unchanged.

In 1985 we have also established Baring Fund Managers Limited, a

London subsidiary which will be backed by the expertise of our fund managers worldwide.

Our fund management capability is founded

on our presence in London, the United States and the Far East with more than £74 billion under management.

Baring Fund Managers in association with BIIM will shortly be launching a new range of authorised unit trusts. Behind them

will be a proven record and over 200 years of history.

BARINGS

Baring Fund Managers Limited
8 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AE

FAMILY MONEY/1

Edited by Lorna Bourke

Unit-linked in front

Ten years of a bull market in shares has produced unit-linked policy performances which outstrip the traditional with-profits endowments by a wide margin. The latest survey from *Planned Savings* magazine shows that the best unit-linked policies - £20 a month paid over 20, 15 and 10 years to February 1, 1985 - would have produced an outturn some £7,322, £6,025 and £2,273 respectively more than with-profits counterparts.

The gaps between the best performers and the dullards at the bottom of the charts are considerable. With Criterion Life turning in a lump sum of £7,798 compared with the best endowment policy over 20 years - Standard Life with £18,380.

The discrepancy between the best and worst unit-linked policy over the same period is even more marked. At the top of the scale there is M & G Dividend, worth £25,702 compared with S & P Capital's £11,139.

With profit and unit-linked performers. Maturity value of a £20 a month policy

With Profits 20 years	Unit Linked 20 years
Standard Life £18,380	M&G Dividend £25,702
Scottish Amicable 15,054	M&G Midland & Gen 24,396
Tunbridge Wells 17,805	M&G Second General 24,058
Norwich Union 17,534	M&G General 20,458
Clerical Medical 16,567	Eagle Star (HS Int.) 15,518
Friends' Provident 16,350	S&P Financial 15,284
NALGO 16,024	Cannock Equity 14,377
Scottish Life 15,585	Tyndall Income 14,261
Scottish Widows 15,713	S&P Investment Trust 14,087
Equitable 15,423	Tyndall Capital 13,033

15 years	15 years
Scottish Amicable £10,616	Friends' Provident Units £16,641
Standard Life 10,489	Equitable Pelican 16,063
Norwich Union 10,389	M&G Dividend 14,325
Tunbridge Wells 10,159	Barclays Income 13,551
Scottish Widows 9,892	NPI Growth 13,408
Friends' Provident 9,560	M&G Midland & General 13,579
Equitable Life 9,525	Barclays General 13,514
Ecclesiastical 4,879	NPI Growth 6,788
Tunbridge Wells 4,871	M&G Recovery 6,538
Scottish Life 4,783	Barclays Income 6,538
Friends' Provident 4,777	London & Manc. ITU's 6,438
Clerical Medical 4,749	Confed. Life Equity 6,415

10 years	10 years
Scottish Amicable £5,440	Prolific High Income £8,206
Standard Life 5,247	Friends Provid. Units 7,713
Norwich Union 5,197	Equitable Pelican 7,326
Scottish Widows 5,148	Barclays General 6,876
Equitable Life 4,892	M&G American & Gen 6,810
Ecclesiastical 4,879	NPI Growth 6,788
Tunbridge Wells 4,871	M&G Recovery 6,538
Scottish Life 4,783	Barclays Income 6,458
Friends' Provident 4,777	London & Manc. ITU's 6,438
Clerical Medical 4,749	Confed. Life Equity 6,415

Source: Planned Savings.

Crime and punishment for home insurers

HOUSE CONTENTS

The insurance companies this week announced record claims for theft on household contents policies - for the first time ever theft claims during 1984 exceeded £300 million to reach an all-time high of £320.4 million.

Perhaps more alarming were the five year figures which show that claims have more than trebled in the past five years from a starting point of £94.5 million back in 1979.

Mr John Simpson, Chairman of the British Insurance Association's Crime Prevention Panel, said: "There is a steep rise in the number of theft claims under household policies. In 1984 there were, on average, more than 1,000 such claims every day. With increases in the cost of each loss, this has led to a 17.5 per cent increase in the total cost of household claims, which rose to £201.1 million."

The balance of the total of £320.4 million is accounted for by commercial claims.

With losses at this level you would think the insurance companies would be burning the midnight oil, trying to make us all more conscious of crime prevention, or working out ways to provide incentives for householders to install effective security devices.

On this score the insurers seem to be taking a somewhat defeatist attitude. Mr Chris Vecchi, of the British Insurance Association, said: "The trouble is that you cannot offer a big enough discount on premiums to make it worthwhile for people going to the expense of installing security equipment."

Only three insurers have so far taken this route - two are relatively small in household business - Cornhill and Economic. Only the Sun Alliance

which offers discounts for approved security systems, has a significant presence in the household insurance market.

"The other problem is that theft is only one of the risks covered - fire, flood and weather damage are also included in the premium", Mr Vecchi said.

With theft claims rising very much in line with unemployment, it is difficult not to suspect that some of the claims are fraudulent. The temptation for someone who is insured but unemployed and short of cash to stage a fake break-in must be considerable.

One insurer said: "We have no way of knowing whether a claim is fraudulent unless it is so obviously a put-up job that it arouses our suspicions."

However, several companies are getting tough on theft claims where part of the loss is cash which has been left lying around. Mr Vecchi said: "Wherever money is included in the

insurance cover you are always going to have people who are out to make a fast buck by inflating their losses. And it may be that social factors like unemployment and redundancy are aggravating this problem."

So how are the thieves getting away with so much? Mr Vecchi said: "It tends to be because people are simply thoughtless."

"They pop out to the shops for half an hour and leave a window open or don't take proper precautions. The thief whisks in and makes off with the television, hi-fi or video. The average theft claim is around £500."

With losses running at over £300 million, might it not be worthwhile spending a bit more on crime prevention publicity?

"We have been running a Beat-the-Burglar campaign since December 1981 and we have given away some four million Beat-the-Burglar leaflets as well as producing a 20

minute video for showing by social clubs and the like."

What is the crime prevention budget? "That's difficult to say because it isn't just money, it is people's time - but the cash spent would be a six figure sum".

The result of these horrifying theft losses is being felt by householders where it hurts most - in the pocket.

Household contents premiums have rocketed in recent years to the point where some householders are allowing their policies to lapse because they simply cannot afford the premiums. The Pru dropped a bombshell on its policyholders with huge rises in inner city areas which will effectively price many elderly people, and those on low incomes, out of the market.

Anyone with a policy coming up for renewal should shop around.

Lorna Bourke

Bank plans new route to the Far East

For investors looking for a way into the Japanese and other Far East stock markets, Baring Brothers, oldest of the City merchant banks, is next week launching five authorized unit trusts through its subsidiary Baring Fund Managers.

It is a new venture for the merchant bank. It already manages about £7,500 million worldwide for pension funds and institutional clients, and has a clutch of unit trusts for these clients. But for the first time Barings will be putting its own name to unit trusts, and it will also be marketing them to a wider public, largely through professional advisers.

However, the trusts will be run by a proven management team with a successful track record in the Far East. Last year Barings bought out the other half of Henderson Baring Management from Henderson Administration.

The company has been renamed Baring International Management (BIM) but otherwise nothing has changed. Since it was founded in 1975 funds under management have grown from \$20 million to around \$2,000 million. About three quarters of BIM's business is in Japan.

Last year, a difficult one in the Japanese market, BIM underperformed. Its Japan portfolios showed an average drop of 3 per cent in dollar terms on a total return basis, against a 16 per cent rise in the Tokyo Stock Exchange index.

But over five years it managed an impressive 177.8 per cent rise, against a 95.3 per cent gain in the index. The average gain of portfolios invested in the Pacific region over five years was 117.7 per cent, against 77.3 per cent in the Pacific Regional index.

According to Mr James Morrell, BIM chairman, the

Japan Technology Fund, one of the eight offshore funds BIM manages, has appreciated in sterling terms by 537 per cent over the past five years. This compares with a 336 per cent gain in the Tokyo index in sterling terms.

The five new trusts being launched are the Baring Japan Special Trust, Japan Sunrise Trust, Eastern Trust, Australia Trust and First Japan Trust. The minimum initial investment is £500 except for the First Japan Trust which has an initial minimum of £10,000.

Barings believes there are still good investment opportunities in Japan, despite the fact that the Japanese market has been in a strong bull phase. Mr James Williams, an investment manager, argues that last year

Outside investors have committed £10m

performance of the market was dominated by financials, while electricals, for instance, underperformed. This, he believes, gives scope for opportunities, and Barings considers Japan an exciting and dynamic area for investment.

Although the new trusts are being launched next week at a series of seminars around the country, £10 million has already been committed by outside investors.

According to Mr Nicholas Baring, chairman of Baring Fund Managers, the intention is to develop a significant interest in the unit trust industry. Following the launch of the new Far Eastern trusts, Barings will be rationalizing and retaining the other trusts it operates and getting authorization for its unauthorized trusts.

Peter Wilson-Smith

Unitsavers have more in store



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Nationwide are very happy to pay you the interest as monthly income: direct into your bank account if you wish, or into a Share Account where it goes on earning interest until you withdraw it.

IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWALS

You can withdraw all or part of your money at any time. Without notice you lose 90 days' interest on the sum withdrawn; give 90 days' notice and you lose nothing.

FROM £500

If you wish you can buy one Capital Bond for income, and another one for growth. Nationwide Capital Bonds are for £500 and up - but you can now invest up to £250,000 per individual. At any Nationwide branch or agent, or use the coupon.

Except for the guaranteed extra, rates may vary.

To Nationwide Building Society, Postal Investment Department, FREEPOST, London WC1V 6XA.
I/we enclose a cheque for £ to be invested in a Capital Bond
☐ Interest to be paid monthly

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

It pays to decide
Nationwide

Nationwide Building Society, New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW.

FAMILY MONEY/2

Mortgage plan that takes a little risk

Nationwide Building Society has got together with Guardian Royal Exchange, to launch a home loan plan linked to GRE's unit-linked managed fund. Many building societies are prepared to accept unit-linked policies as security for a home loan, but the difference with the Nationwide/GRE scheme is that borrowers make single monthly payments to Nationwide which incorporate the insurance premium. With most schemes you make interest payments to the building society and separate insurance premium payments to GRE.

GRE's managed fund has performed well, too, so this is a useful scheme for those who are prepared to accept the slightly higher risk inherent in unit-linked schemes compared with the more conventional with-profit endowment policies.

Because the value of a unit-linked policy at maturity is directly linked to the value of the underlying investments, if your policy matures in a year when the stock exchange is going through a bad patch, you may have to delay repayment of the loan until shares pick up again. This might not suit if you had planned to retire at that time. Details of the scheme from Nationwide branches.

Revenue turns on the heat

The Inland Revenue's pay what we demand or else - is a well-known threat to tardy payers, regardless of whether the amount demanded is the correct sum. Latest to feel the effect are employers who fall behind with payments of PAYE deducted at source from employees' wages.

From April 6, employers who fall into arrears will receive an estimate of the unpaid liability. And unless the employer pays within seven days of the date of the

notice - or sends the correct amount of tax - the estimated amount becomes enforceable.

The Revenue cheerfully admits that the process will speed up bringing in overdue PAYE tax. But what constitutes arrears? "Tax is due on the 19th of the month and employers should not assume that they won't get an estimate on the 20th if they haven't paid tax owing," commented the Inland Revenue.

Co-op pays 9.34%

The Co-op Bank is launching a Top Tier bank account on Monday. Balances over £2,500 will attract after tax interest of 9.34 per cent. If the balance should fall below £2,500 the bank's ordinary deposit rate will apply.

Interest is calculated daily and credited twice yearly. No penalty is incurred for instant withdrawal if the balance remains over £10,000, but between £2,500 and £9,999 three months' notice is necessary to avoid loss of interest. For basic rate taxpayers the account compares reasonably well with its competitors in the high street banks and building societies.

Its own judge

Ombudsman is the latest buzz word in the consumer protection field, and the National Consumer Council would like to see one or more legal ombudsmen employed by an independent council to deal with complaints against solicitors.

According to the NCC, the present system is too fragmented - complaints about "misconduct" are dealt with by the Law Society, but claims for compensation arising from a solicitor's negligence have to be pursued privately, through the courts if necessary.

Justice is not seen to be done because the Law Society, the professional body which looks after solicitors' interests, deals with complaints against its own members", says the NCC.

Bubble bargain

Save your Matry bubble bath bottles and claim 50p is the latest promotion from Woolwich Building Society on its Woolwich for Kids accounts.

For each 50p deposited in the account, along with a specially marked Matry bubble bath bottle, a further 50p will be added up to a maximum of £2.50 for five bottles. The offer is open to new investors only, and children must be accompanied by an adult when opening an account.

The special Matry bottles are available for two months, although they will be accepted at Woolwich branches until the end of April next year. The Woolwich does not say whether it can identify existing Woolwich for Kids investors who close an account at one branch and open one at another in order to qualify for the special "double you money" offer.

Royal choice

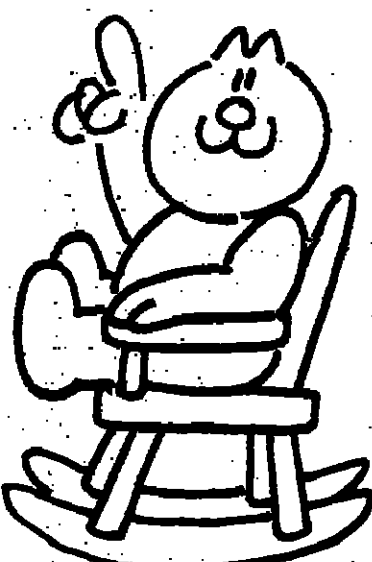
Investors in Royal London's lump sum and regular savings scheme, Unit plan, have a new unutilised fund to choose from. Royal is launching an equity fund to run alongside its existing mixed fund.

The managed fund invests in a spread of equities and fixed interest securities, while the new equity fund will be a pure equity investment.

The mixed fund has been a slightly below average performer. Royal describes its performance, since its launch in April, 1981, as "remarkable", but figures compiled by Money Management magazine show that £1,000 invested in Royal London's mixed fund three years ago would be worth £1,648 as at March, 1985 compared with an average for all insurance company unitised managed funds of £1,682. Top performers in the sector showed a return of over £2,000 for the same period.

Blanket help

The Leeds Permanent Building Society is doing its bit for the famine relief effort in North Africa. Over the next few weeks customers will be able to deposit blankets to help provide shade in the



Henry's Cat: With the Woolwich

daytime and warmth at night for the stricken refugees.

Leeds Permanent has allied with Help the Aged and Bandaid, who are taking care of collection and packaging of the blankets for transport to Ethiopia and Sudan. Blankets can be left at any of Leeds Permanent's 475 branches.

Pension deal

Framlington has sold £3.83 million worth of unit trusts wrapped up in its new personal pension scheme. The scheme is an excellent deal for anyone making personal provision for retirement, since Framlington charges nothing for the wraparound pension policy, and investors obtain 100 per cent investment in Framlington unit trusts at no extra charge - but with the full tax relief allowable on personal pension premiums. You are effectively investing in unit trusts with tax relief.

It is a pity more people have not grasped just what a bargain this is. Although Framlington is putting a brave face on it, sales of the pension scheme at £3.85 million are peanuts compared with the £20 million or more they would expect to take on the successful launch of a straight unit trust.

Provided you can afford to lock up your savings until retirement, the Framlington pension policy is a much better way of buying unit trusts, because you get full tax relief on the premiums paid.

Holding on

Owning their own home is the most important step for most people but redundancy and unemployment can make hanging on to it the next most difficult manoeuvre.

The Rights Guide for Home Owners covers everything from how to deal with mortgage arrears to obtaining family income supplement and rate rebates. It is published by the housing charity, SHAC in conjunction with Child Poverty Action Group, and is available (price £2.50) from either organisation.

Child Poverty Action Group, 1 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5NH, or SHAC, London Housing Aid Centre, 188a Brompton Road, London SW5 0AR.

French with tears

It might be something to do with those bumpy French roads, or even the French drivers, but eight out of ten British drivers who break down in Europe do so in France.

With this in mind, the French-based, Mondial Assistance is aiming to carve out a slice of the British motorists holiday insurance market.

Mondial, with its eight million members has the necessary experience and muscle throughout Western and Eastern Europe to give the best possible help to the motorist in difficulties," says the publicity material.

Mondial claims it is one of the most competitive insurers for motoring holidays, charging £24.80 for vehicle

cover for 11 to 17 days; compared with £30.80 at Europ Assistance, £31.50 for AA 5-star cover, and £29.50 at RAC Travellers Bond. Further details from Mondial Assistance, PO Box 161, Croydon CR9 1QB.

Guide to USM

For many entrepreneurs, the United Securities Market provides a means of cashing in their chips, and several millionaires have been created by this route.

Books cannot tell you how to make a million, but the latest publication from the Institute of Chartered Accountants sets out what you have to do to obtain a quote on the USM. Called *The United Securities Market*, it examines the main criteria used in deciding whether a company is suitable for flotation on the USM: the advantages and disadvantages of a listing, entry requirements, and the role of the professionals. It also includes sections on the content of a prospectus and flotation timetable. Copies of the booklet are available from the Publications Department, Institute of Chartered Accountants, 399 Silbury Boulevard, Witan Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2HL. Price £2.50.

Pensions uncertainty

The National Association of Pension Funds, the major organisation for self-administered pension funds in the private and public sectors, publishes its 1985 Yearbook this week. In his review of 1984 the association's chairman, Mr Tom Hayes, remarked on the uncertainty preceding the recent Budget, adding that it is "too early yet to look forward to the period of reasonable certainty and stability which companies, employees and all pension plans so badly need."

The NAFP Yearbook supplies information about the council and its functions, and lists the largest public and private sector schemes ranked by size of assets. It is available from the National Association of Pension Funds, 12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, Victoria, London SW1W 0DH. Price £15.50 to members, £23.50 to non-members.

How people take life seriously

Most young middle-aged people are likely to have only one life assurance contract - apart from mortgage protection cover - according to a recent survey carried out for fund managers Property Growth.

About 300 adults in Britain in the 25 to 45 age group were interviewed and 67 per cent had only one life policy, 23 per cent owned two, and 8 per cent owned three. Only two people out of 100 had four or more policies.

Nine out of ten of those interviewed had whole life or endowment type policies and the average total cover per person was £22,180 while the average amount of cover per policy was £15,388. Most of those questioned had policies with a value ranging from £10,000 to more than £20,000.

Most people did not take independent advice. Only 11 per cent of those questioned had bought their cover through an insurance broker while 56 per cent had been sold a policy by an agent or salesman representing the life company. Most on their own assessment were underinsured.

Next thought they needed cover of around £33,700 - about 52 per cent higher than the average actual cover. However, one in five thought this was nothing to worry about, and one in three thought the cost of buying insurance was the main deterrent.

The right cheques now cheque out even better!

CHEQUE THE INTEREST

If you're looking for a high interest cheque account, £2,500 in Cheque-Save earns you a rate you'll find hard to equal at this level of investment.

Of course rates may vary, but the current net compounded annual rate is an eye-opening 9.75%. This is equivalent to a gross return of 13.93% for basic rate taxpayers (if full half yearly interest remains invested).

Even if your account is below £2,500, you'll still earn a handsome 7.00% net - and enjoy full cheque book convenience.

£2,500 + RATE

9.52%
= 13.60%

GROSS EQUIVALENT TO BASIC RATE TAXPAYERS

THIS BIG NEW RATE FROM 1st APRIL

CHEQUE THE LEVEL

Some high interest cheque accounts don't let you in unless you have a lot of money to start with. You can join Abbey National Cheque-Save with just £100 - and from 6th April, invest up to £90,000 in a single or joint account.

CHEQUE THE ACCESS

Use your Cheque-Save cheque book as often as you like for transferring funds, or paying major bills. There's no petty limit on the number of cheques you may use in any given period, or on the amount.

If you need cash, just use your passbook to withdraw up to £250 per day at any Abbey National branch. (A Visa card is also available for day-to-day transactions.)

CHEQUE THE NAME

Remember that with Cheque-Save you get all the security of Abbey National and its national network of branches and agencies. You know the name - and you know where your money is.

Come on in to the benefits of Cheque-Save. Just complete the coupon and send it to us with your initial investment.

To: Dept. CS.94, Abbey National Building Society, FREEPOST, United Kingdom House, 180 Oxford Street, London W1E 3YZ.

I/We enclose a cheque for £
to be invested in a Cheque-Save Account at my/our local branch in _____

Please send me full details and an application card.
Minimum investment £100. Maximum £90,000 single or joint account from 6th April.
I/We understand that rates may vary and interest will be credited to the account half yearly.

Full name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

Signature(s) _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Date _____

ABBEY NATIONAL CHEQUE-SAVE

ABBEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY,
ABBEY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON NW1 6XL



Easy way to money, but mistakes can happen

Cash dispensers that leave their customers short

The high street banks are being forced to face the possibility that their cash dispensing machines might be less than infallible.

Since they were first introduced in the late 1960s, the computerised cash dispensers with their individual cards linked to secret personalized identification numbers (PINs) have been considered virtually invulnerable to error.

As recently as 1981, Lloyds Bank admitted as 350 disputes in over 29.7 million withdrawals during the previous year, resulting in reimbursements of just under £11,000 - only .0001 per cent of the total £690 million withdrawn. Those totals have since grown to 71.7 million transactions, representing £2,151 million, while the percentage of transactions disputed (and admitted) has remained much the same.

Recent inquiries by the BBC Radio 4 consumer programme *You and Yours*, however, have elicited about 100 letters since February recounting disputes of one kind or another over cash dispenser withdrawals. The letters have been forwarded to the National Consumer Council, which may publish a report on the subject next month.

The issue raises consumer temperatures because, so convinced are the banks of their systems' infallibility, that the burden of proof in a dispute is always on the customer, whose bank statement is the only record of a transaction that he can see.

The BBC team has defined three areas of dispute. The most

common is the receipt of fewer notes than requested from the machine; say, £40 when £50 was punched in and debited.

Sometimes the machine seems to debit the same transaction twice, on the same consecutive days, so that a £50 transaction, for example, becomes £100. Often a discrepancy on the statement rectifies the error - but not always.

Finally, there is the question of mysterious debits. A withdrawal made without the knowledge of the customer, sometimes from branches he or she has not even visited. The banks unanimously reject this kind of complaint, insisting that there must be some explanation - another member of the family, for example.

Of the disputes reported, about half have been resolved in the customer's favour. Whatever kind of dispute is involved, the banks tend to argue that in reimbursing the customer they are giving him the benefit of the doubt, although in cases of alleged short-changing it is obviously helpful to have a witness, and the face-saving explanation of "mechanical error" to hand.

Suggestions of third-party fraud raised by several of the more mysterious debiting incidents are unsubstantiated.

From the consumer's point of view, the French Visa experiment, in which microchips are being built into credit cards could prove the best way round the banks' court-of-appeal approach.

Tony Samstag

YOU'VE HEARD THE STORIES. NOW, HERE ARE THE FACTS...

LIVING OR WORKING ABROAD?

"Expatriate financial advisers" often claim to know more than they really do - which is why we've created a new magazine called *Expatriate Money Newsletter*. The Joint Editors are David Young and Christopher Gilchrist, bringing together a world of knowledge on expatriates and investment.

This is where the facts start and the fiction ends, so act now! The annual subscription is £85 - but you can have it for the first year for just £65, if you apply before 31st May.

Expatriate Money Newsletter, Financial Newsletters Ltd, 26 Queensway, London W2 3RX.

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Signature _____ Date _____



How you could fund school fees of over £48,000 for under £16,000.

The Equitable has recently had an educational trust established (with all the tax advantages of charitable status), that could save you thousands of pounds on your child's public school fees.

For a relatively small outlay parents or grandparents can now consider private education with one of our fee saving plans.

Here are just a few examples of the ways our schemes could fund the fees you may require.

	METHOD 1 Regular contributions		METHOD 2	
Child's age next birthday	Monthly Outlay	Total Outlay	Single Contribution	Total fees provided for child 11-18 years*
1	130.54	15,664.80 (Paid over 10 years)	9,491.22	48,852
5	285.00	20,520.00 (Paid over 6 years)	15,003.76	48,852

Figures suppose that current bonus levels including terminal bonus are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed. *i.e. for 7 years, increasing each year at 5% per annum.

What's more our plans are very flexible.

You decide whether you want to pay a number of contributions over

a period, or one lump sum at the outset, or a combination of the two.

If you want to find out more about our School

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A little extra homework could pay handsome dividends.

To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, 4 Coleman Street, London EC2B 2JL. I'd welcome further details on your school fee plans, financing them by: ☐ A capital sum; ☐ Spreading the cost over a period. (U.K. residents only.)

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Date of Birth

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Bankers enter the battle to catch your cash

INTEREST

Anyone who leaves cash on ordinary seven-day deposit at the bank is not making the most of his or her money.

There is now a wide range of high interest, accounts, from banks and a host of other institutions which offer rates considerably higher than can be obtained on bank seven-day deposits. In several cases there is no minimum investment required.

High interest cheque accounts (HICAs) are the banks' answer to competition from the building societies. With the introduction of composite rate tax (CRT) on all bank interest from last week, the banks had to have accounts that looked as attractive as the successful "extra interest" accounts at the building societies, and HICAs have sprung up like mushrooms in recent months.

Best of the bunch among the high street banks is Lloyds' High Interest Cheque Account, currently paying 9.5 per cent net of basic rate tax. Minimum investment is £2,500, but unlike the other banks' competing

accounts, Lloyds' places no restrictions on the number of cheques you write or the cash amounts of cheque withdrawals. Three cheques a quarter can be written without charge - after that you pay 50p a cheque.

"It has been going extremely well so far, and we are very pleased with the response," commented Norman Evans of Lloyds. The account also offers a normal cheque guarantee card and a cashpoint card which allows you to withdraw up to £300 a day from cash dispensers.

Over at NatWest, its version of a high interest account, Special Reserve, has been going great guns. "We have taken in £633 million since the launch in January, and we are adding new accounts at the rate of 1,000 a day," says Colin Williams.

Clearly there is a certain amount of switching going on, but NatWest is confident that a substantial proportion of the money going into the Special Reserve is coming from competitors, rather than its own deposit account customers.

Since its launch, NatWest has opened some 57,000 Special Reserve accounts. An extra 0.25

per cent is paid on investments over £10,000.

Market leader, though, is Citibank Savings account, with no minimum deposit required and no charges or restrictions on writing cheques. Very low key, Citibank's Carl Holsters says: "We are satisfied with the way it is going, we have opened around 10,000 accounts." Citibank is going slowly with this account because it is anxious to maintain a high level of service, so promotion has been limited. But paying 10 per cent on all amounts over £500, it not only offers the best facilities but also pays the highest interest rate of all the banks. "This is all new money for us, and we are pleased with the way the account is going," says Mr Holsters.

Originators of the concept of high interest accounts were institutions other than banks. One of the first with a "money fund" was Oppenheimer/Simco

which pioneered the idea of paying money market related rates to smaller investors.

Oppenheimer/Simco's money fund has been in existence for well over a decade, but until such funds came on the scene, only large investors with sums of £25,000 or more had access to money market interest rates. The cheque book facility was offered at a later stage, though it was the fund managers Save and Prosper who really popularized the concept of the high interest cheque account.

The high street banks would probably have continued to sit on the sidelines, paying a relatively poor rate of return on seven-day deposits had it not been for the Government's unexpected move to bring banks and all other deposit-taking institutions (with the notable exception of the National Savings Bank) into the CRT net.

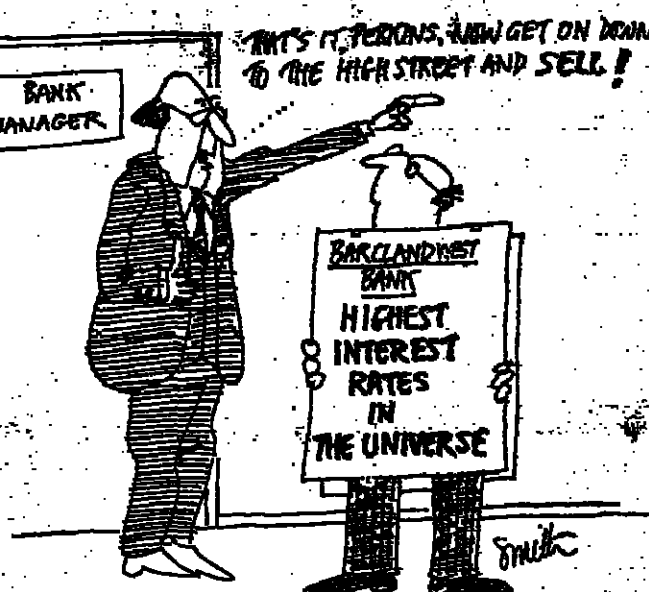
The banks have long complained of the building societies' advantage in being able to pay interest net of basic rate tax. What they wanted was a similar facility.

What they got was not the option to apply CRT but an obligation to do so - not what they had bargained for at all. Inevitably, if they were obliged to deduct basic rate tax at source they would no longer be able to quote a gross interest rate, and the poor return on seven-day deposits would be highlighted.

Rather than sit by and see customers walking out of the door and across the road to the building society or post office, they moved (for once with relative speed) and set up their own version of HICAs.

Continuing competition from the building societies and other banks should ensure that the terms of HICAs will gradually be improved - if not on the interest paid, then on the facilities. It is only a matter of time before one of the big four banks starts to reduce the minimum investment or removes the restrictions on writing cheques.

Lorna Bourke



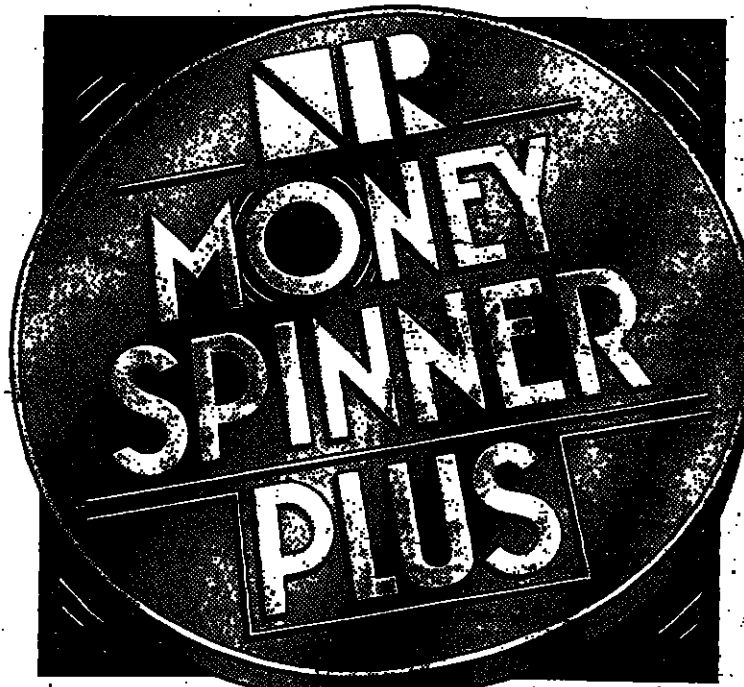
HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNTS

Interest rates as at April 11

Fund	Interest Rate GNAR	NET	Minimum Deposit	Minimum Withdrawal	Cheque Book	Notice	Tel. Number
Aiken Hume	9.50	9.50	£	£	yes	Call	01-638 6070
Bank of Scotland	9.82	9.81	2,500	250	yes	Call	01-628 8060
Barclays	9.75	9.75	1,000	250	yes	Call	01-628 8060
Britannia/Cater Allen	9.86	9.83	2,500	250	yes	Call	01-588 2777
Charterhouse Japhet	9.72	9.72	2,500	1	yes	Call	01-248 3989
Citibank Savings	10.0	10.0	1	none	yes	Call	01-748 4477
Co-op Cheque Save	9.72	9.72	2,500	1	yes	Call	01-628 8543
Ed Manson cheque	9.71	9.71	1,000	1	yes	Call	01-631 3313
Ed Manson 3-month	10.46	10.46	1,000	1	no	3 mths	01-631 3313
Henderson	9.82	9.81	2,500	250	yes	Call	01-638 5757
HFC Trust & Savings	9.85	9.85	5	1	no	Call	01-236 8381
Lloyds HICA	9.75	9.75	2,500	250	yes	Call	01-628 8060
M & G	9.85	9.82	2,500	250	yes	Call	0285 51651
Midland Bank	10.11	9.75	2,000	250	yes	Call	01-628 8060
NatWest Special Reserve	9.85	9.85	2,000	250	yes	Call	01-628 8060
Oppenheimer Money Mgmt	9.77	9.44	1,000	200	yes	Call	01-236 1425
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.53	9.53	2,500	250	yes	Call	031-557 0201
Save & Prosper	9.70	9.72	1,000	250	yes	Call	0708 66966
Schroder (under £10,000)	9.75	9.75	2,500	250	yes	Call	0708 627733
Schroder (£10,000 or more)	9.95	9.95	10,000	250	yes	Call	0708 627733
Money Market Trust	9.36	9.67	10,000	1,000	no	Call	01-236 0952
Money Market Trust	10.27	9.90	2,500	2,000	no	7 days	01-236 0952
7-day Fund	10.27	9.57	2,500	250	no	Call	0272 732241
Tyndal/Call	10.27	9.62	2,500	250	yes	7 days	0272 732241
Western Trust & Savings	10.27	9.62	2,500	250	yes	Call	0752 261161
High Interest Cheque	10.08	9.72	2,000	250	yes	Call	0752 261161

GNAR - Compounded net annual rate - not quoted by some companies
Details at all branches * Higher rates for deposits over £10,000

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With simple, flexible Money Spinner Plus Northern Rock tops all leading U.K. building societies for seven-day money. Withdrawals require just seven days' notice and incur no penalties. You get big interest for the minimum investment of £500. The table shows how you can earn even more for larger amounts. Ask for details of maximum investment. Interest is paid annually in October or you can receive it as monthly income.

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST PAID*	GROSS PAY
£500 or more	9.75%	13.93%
£5,000 or more	10.00%	14.29%
£20,000 or more	10.25%	14.64%

*Interest may vary. *Tax equivalent yield for basic rate taxpayers.

Enquire at any Northern Rock branch or write to us FREEPOST Newcastle

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You'll find Cheltenham Gold at your nearest C & G branch. If that's not convenient you can operate your account from home, post free, with our Gold By Post service.

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To: Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, PO Box 124, FREEPOST, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7PW.

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☐ Please send more details.

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2ACT2

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10.25% NET* 14.64% GROSS EQUIVALENT* PAID ON BALANCES BELOW £500. GROSS EQUIVALENT FOR BASIC RATE TAXPAYERS.

FAMILY MONEY/5

It's competition time again

Spring has brought a new crop of building society accounts with even better rates of interest. Richard Thomson has been shopping around to root out the "best buys".

A fresh outbreak of competition is benefiting investors yet again. The building societies are

involved in another of their scrambles to offer the best rates in order to improve the flow of cash into their coffers which fell near to a record low last month.

Their main target was to beat the clearing banks' rates, but since last week's fall in base rates the banks have been

Now the societies are competing among themselves.

The effect has already been to push investment rates well above 10 per cent on many accounts, but there is also a strong improvement in the actual terms of the accounts offered by many societies.

Ordinary share rates with almost all societies rose from 7.75 to 8.25 per cent on April 1, but the real excitement has been in the high interest accounts. These now hold over half of all the money invested in building societies. Rates offered on high interest accounts range from about 9.5 per cent net.

Depending on how often during the year the interest is paid, this can mean a compounded annual rate of as much as 10.75 per cent. A number of societies, such as the Leeds, the Bradford and Bingley and the City of London all offer 10.75 per cent.

But for many investors it may not be possible to go just for the highest paying account. So it is interesting that at the same time as raising rates many societies are both shortening the notice periods on their accounts, and reducing the minimum investment levels.

Alliance, for example, saw that competition was shifting away from higher paying accounts to shorter term deposits. There is clearly more competition for shorter term money," the society said, and changed its one-year Premier account to a 90-day notice

account.

The Halifax followed a similar course. From the end of last month it closed its seven-day and 28-day accounts to new deposits, and instead introduced a new Instant Xtra immediate access account offering 9.75 per cent net, as long as a £500 minimum is kept on deposit. Town and Country similarly converted its seven-day account into instant access and the Alliance today launches its Gold account offering 9.75 per cent with instant access on a balance of over £800.

The other tendency, to reduce the minimum deposits required, was graphically shown by the Cheltenham and Gloucester's move to halve the amount needed on its Gold account from £1,000 to £500. Abbey National also reduced the minimum on its seven-day account to £500.

Among the short-term accounts, therefore, the Cheltenham and Gloucester remains about the best. Besides its low minimum it offers a rate of 10.25 net. Investors with more money to spare, however, will clearly get a better rate on the Middleton Masterplan, as the table shows.

The interest range widens again on one-month accounts, and the laurels clearly go to the small societies. Apart from the Stanley Super 30 account, which requires a deposit of at least £5,000, the best smaller deposit accounts are available from the Essex and the Hendon.



Investing in a building society? The choice is wide

Yet despite the moves towards shorter and smaller minimums, the best rates still go to big deposits in longer term accounts. A rash of new accounts has just appeared to exploit this. The Halifax launched its new Premium Xtra offering 10.25 per cent (a compounded annual rate of 10.65 per cent) which offers a guaranteed two per cent over the ordinary share rate for three years. The minimum investment required is £10,000.

But a better deal has come from the Leeds Permanent with its Limited Edition paying 10.75 per cent net. As long as the £10,000 minimum is maintained the 2.5 per cent premium over the ordinary share rate is guaranteed for two years. Similar accounts have come from the Midlands, paying 10.5 per cent net, and the Anglia, offering 10.25 per cent net, and Nationwide's Capital Bond which guarantees 2 per cent over the ordinary share rate on

a minimum investment of £500. The Anglia guarantees a 2 per cent differential for one year, but requires a minimum investment of only £500.

Among the best buys, Metros Building Society's Super Saver, a 90-day notice account, attracts 10.55 per cent net, whereas its Lunar account, which is a 28-day notice account, earns 10.05.

Harrow Building Society has taken a different route from the Alliance. Its Additional Interest shares which offer a net rate of 10.5 per cent, require three months' notice of withdrawal in order to avoid 30 days' loss of interest.

Bradford and Bingley introduced a new account, the High Interest, offering 2.5 per cent above the ordinary rate, at present earning 10.75 per cent net, needing three months' notice to avoid a 90-day penalty, and a minimum investment of £5,000.

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Halifax Instant Xtra	9.75	£500	A
Middleton Masterplan	10.60	£5,000	O
Wessex ordinary shares	10.10	-	B
Cheltenham & Gloucester Gold	10.25	£500	A*

7-DAY	% net	Min Inv	Int
Hendon	10.10	£500	B+
Britannia	10.00	£500	B
Citizens Regency	10.00	£500	B
Paddington	10.00	£100	B
Sussex Mutual Magnum	10.00	£500	B

1 MONTH	% net	Min Inv	Int
Nationwide Super Bonus	9.75	£200	B+
Essex Extra	10.55	£500	M
Stanley Super 30	10.65	£5,000	M
Hendon 1-month	10.40	£500	B+
Sussex Mutual Monthly Income	10.25	£500	M

* for balances over £5,000 interest credited monthly
+ for balances over £2,000 interest credited monthly
- for balances over £1,000 interest credited monthly
O=interest credited quarterly, M=monthly, B=biannually, A=annually

Information supplied by Building Society Choice, annual subscription £10.95 from Research and Information, Riverside House, Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 0SF. Tel: Rattlesden (04493) 287.

Problems that pop up in top-up loans

As the housebuying season gets into full swing there are many people, particularly first time buyers, eager to find ways of borrowing more than the standard 80 to 85 per cent of property value offered by most lenders. One method is to take out a top-up loan, where the bank or building society loan is increased by a loan backed by a life policy from an insurance company. Yet as a reader, Mr P. K. Nandi, found there can be hidden problems with top-ups.

He was first surprised to find that although only a small part of his total mortgage consisted of the top-up element, the insurance company (National Mutual Life) insisted that he take out a life policy covering the whole amount of the loan. He was next disconcerted to discover that the policy he was required to buy was a non-profit endowment policy. These are notoriously expensive.

The monthly cost of a National Mutual non-profit policy on a £45,000 loan over 25 years for a 35-year-old man, for example, is £113.50. The cost of an economy endowment policy for the same loan is £91. The cost of the policy, of course, had to be paid on top of the ordinary mortgage repayments.

Mr Nandi took his loan out several years ago, however, and National Mutual says it now allows top-ups to be linked to economy endowment policies. "We were one of the first insurance companies into this market, because we saw a need", a spokesman said. "But

we had to start offering economy endowments because the market has become so much more sophisticated."

Yet only last year Mr Nandi ran into further problems. He went back for another loan from the company for home improvements. "It was unwilling to give me one," he writes, "unless I took out a further policy to cover the extra advance." He protested that he already had ample life cover, including an endowment contract with bonuses which already covered the amount of the new loan. But National Mutual remained stony-faced. Mr Nandi had to take out a further endowment policy he did not want or need, to get his loan.

National Mutual maintains that these sorts of terms are only fair. If the borrower defaults, said Mr Richard Barker, a director, the building society or bank has a prior claim to the insurance company over whatever is left to pay off creditors. Because they are taking bigger risks, therefore, insurance companies required a higher return from such lending.

This is so, but another insurance company involved in the top-up loan market threw a different light on things. A spokesman said: "We see top-ups as a way of generating more insurance business, and I expect all insurance companies who do this business think of it that way. They are not banks, after all, but insurance companies. They are doing it almost as a special favour." RT

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INSURANCE

Anyone taking out a personal loan these days is likely to be offered insurance as well. Ever keen to sell more, the major banks and lending institutions have, during the past two or three years, been offering block protection plans for loans as a matter of course. These cover the total repayments of the loan in case of death, and monthly repayments in case of loss of earnings through accident or sickness. Some also offer unemployment or redundancy insurance.

On the face of it the idea of insuring your debts is a good one. Some building societies now insist that repayment mortgages are covered by a mortgage protection policy. At

least it ensures that if the breadwinner dies, the family has a roof over its head. But looking at the terms, costs and details of some of the insurance offered with personal loan schemes it appears that borrowers should think hard before committing themselves to insurance premiums as well as the monthly loan repayments.

I was, for instance, rather stunned to receive the Access Loan Plan along with last month's statement. It offered loans of up to £5,000. In the brochure was a large heading "Insurance can cover you if you lose your job" beneath which it stated: "We have arranged for special insurance to cover your requirements if you are unable to work because of illness or accident... if you die the outstanding loan will be repaid in full."

Fine until you look at how much the insurance premium adds to the cost of the loan. For instance, if you borrow £1,000 for a year the interest charge is £115.87, but the insurance premium will be £53.39 - almost half as much again. If you borrow £5,000 over three years the interest will come to £1,777 and the insurance premium will be £385.70.

While the repayment tables show exactly how much interest and insurance premium will be paid on the loan, Access states that the insurance will automatically be included unless you indicate otherwise on the application form.

It is inertia selling, one of the best known and most effective ways of selling. Even Access agrees that its insurance is pretty costly.

According to a marketing department manager, it is the high cost of obtaining redundancy and unemployment protection that makes it so expensive. It is true that this is a very expensive insurance buy and maybe with the current high rates of unemployment people think it is worth it.

But what the Access brochure does not tell you is that the unemployment, unlike the sickness and accident protection, pays the monthly repayment for only a maximum of 12 months. You find that out, presumably,

when you have signed up for your loan and insurance.

Not all lenders offer the same insurance. National Westminster Bank and Barclays, for instance, offer death cover and protection against loss of earnings through accident or illness but not employment or redundancy cover. NatWest charges £36 for insurance on a £1,000 loan for a year and £335 for £5,000 borrowed over three years. Barclays charges slightly more.

The insurance premiums are phased monthly. Midland Bank, on the other hand, includes automatic death benefit in the cost of the loan. It then offers an optional sickness and unemployment insurance. This costs £54 for a £1,000 loan for a year and £367 for a £5,000 loan over three years. Again the unemployment cover is only for one year. It is clear from figures that the cost of insuring short term borrowing can be ridiculously expensive. According to the Midland this is because the initial setting-up costs are taken in the first year.

What the customer has to ponder is: Do you really need this cover? It is tempting to think that all insurance is a good thing. For instance, do you really need to insure your loan in case you die? Most people who have had an endowment



mortgage for a number of years will find that the sum assured will more than pay off their home loan and could well be enough to cover subsequent borrowing as well. Ask the insurance company what the endowment policy is now worth. The value of the unemployment cover seems questionable if it lasts for only a year.

And married couples where both partners work should look very hard at precise terms of personal loan insurance. The Midland loan insurance, for instance, comes into effect only if both earners are jobless.

National Westminster, on the other hand, sells a policy that appears to pay out when the

major income earner is ill or unemployed. It is worth checking on this. Perhaps the final point is to consider who benefits from these loan insurance schemes. Clearly the individual customer who is insuring his or her personal liability. But isn't it also a very cheap way for the banks or lender to insure business risk? And the insurance covers not just repayment of the capital but also of the interest that would have been paid on the personal loan over the years if repayments had continued. So the lender's profit, not just the capital, is actually protected by the policy. And the policy is all paid for by the customer.

Maggie Drummond

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Football: Wembley should be filled with purple haze after today's FA Cup semi-finals

Luton put up a threadbare veil against the coming gale

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Wherever the winds of fate may care to blow this afternoon, the national stadium should be filled with a purple haze on FA Cup final day, May 18. The forecast that embraces gales of up to 70 miles per hour sweeping across the country cannot logically include a victory for Luton Town, the odd ones out among the last four.

One end of Wembley should be draped in the blue of the holders, Everton, who take on Luton at Villa Park. The other will be painted in the red of Liverpool or Manchester United, involved in a tie at Goodison Park so finely balanced that it could be decided by the flick of a boot.

Although David Pleat has shrouded his Luton line-ups in a veil of tactical mystery, he cannot disguise their fundamental inadequacy. Nicholas and Preece, two of the four players he has bought to lift them clear of relegation, are Cup-tied and their absence in midfield weakens their challenge in the area that is Everton's strength.

Turner, who scored their eventual winner against Watford in a fifth round tie, spread across three evenings in March, will fill one of the vacancies. Either Daniel or Parker will be promoted to the other. "Whatever Howard Kendall plans," Pleat says, "he will not know too much about how my team will play." Nor, probably, does he care.

The goalless draw in Munich on Wednesday extended Everton's unbeaten run to 20 games and their belief is not so solid as Villa Park. Although Shedy may not have recovered from an ankle ligament trouble, Richardson is a striking alternative, as Southampton discovered recently, and their pattern, so simple and so effective, will be maintained.

Gray, missing against Bayern, returns to lead their prolific attack, but the most influential figures will be Bracewell, so industrious in winning the ball, and Reid, so composed in using it. Even if Luton do find a chink in Everton's defensive armour, they must still beat Southall, arguably the most dependable goalkeeper in the land.

Both sides, curiously enough,

Fine old master increases in value

By Clive White

Whenever the directors of Bolton Wanderers look at Peter Reid, which is uncomfortably often, they must feel choked with regret. Like men who sold a painting suspecting it to be a fake only to discover afterwards that it was indeed a masterpiece. Not that you could blame Bolton. There were so many flaws in the canvas that Reid looked ready for the scrap heap rather than the Everton gallery. Now he is a picture of health, drawing admiring glances all over the country - not least from his fellow artists.

The recent accolade of Player of the Year awarded him by the Professional Footballers' Association, is given to the sort of player more appreciated within the game than outside it. There have been some unglorious former winners, but Reid believes modestly that his name pales into insignificance beside some of them.

Whatever there is in a name, there is something mighty encouraging in the sight of Peter Reid, and not just to his fellow professionals. The 38-year-old midfielder player, whose experience, wisdom and dependability As Howard Kendall the Everton manager says: "He's a dream. When I send him out onto the field, I don't have to worry about commitment or anything. It's guaranteed."

Reid even inspires confidence in a neutral like myself. With his stocky little while legs there is something old fashioned and reassuring about him. One season winner as we used to in people like Clough. Perhaps England will latch on to it this time. "A side needs as many winners as they can get. And, like Andy Gray, I'm one of them," he says with an honesty you cannot doubt for a second.

It was this total belief in his ability that got him through the unfairness of the early days, when he looked very much like a following a shattered knee-cap, torn ligaments, cartilage trouble and a broken leg. It wrecked him in what should have been his prime at Bolton. From the age of 22 to 26, during which time he played only about 60 games. The trouble began with equally cruel timing just as Bolton got into the first division.

Though it is satisfying to see him making up for lost time at some rate this season, one is filled with a feeling of deprivation: his shaggy head of grey hair is a constant reminder of what the first division has been missing all these years. He spent a year out of the game with the ligament injury and then became involved in a contract dispute with Bolton. Arsenal and Everton both came in with an acceptable offer to the club of £40,000, but Reid failed to agree terms. He did come to agreement with Wolverhampton Wanderers at a time when they had Andy Gray, but they were thinking too big, too fast. "All I will say is that certain



Eye on the future: Reid aims for Wembley

people in the game let me down," he said.

It was then, though, that his problems really began, in the shape of injuries. Exactly two years after the arrival of Kendall and Harvey, his coach and no mean judge of skill, had a hard look at him. "It was a gamble, I admit," Reid says. "Luckily for both of us it worked out."

His ideal working relationship with Paul Bracewell in the centre of midfield has been vital to the reawakening of the Goodison giant for the first time since the playing days of Kendall and Harvey. "Bracewell should be in the England squad," said the man who by that token must be the sale of the millennium. But there is also a

perfect mix of skill and strength throughout the side, and Reid acts as the catalyst. "I am just there to make things tick over," he says, with the sort of simplicity and economy he shows on the field. Liverpool had the obvious replacement for Southall right there on their doorstep and what is more he was a Liverpool supporter as a youth. "I am a fervent convert now," he says in fact Liverpool were believed to have been formulating an offer a few hours after he had signed a new contract with Everton.

That would have been a picture even more painful to view of Everton than it has been for Bolton these past 16 months. Evertonians can rest easy in the knowledge that the contract has another season to run.

Liverpool gain inspiration from their rivals on Merseyside

By David Miller

It is part of the charm of Merseyside, in a city where the people manage to retain that abstract quality in circumstances of grim deprivation, that the rebirth of Everton has proved to be of substantial benefit to their rivals at Anfield. When the grass at Goodison suddenly started to look green again, spectators at the other place were obliged to recognize that a domestic superiority which included 21 consecutive seasons and six titles in European competition could no longer be taken for granted. Who did these upstarts just across the park think they were?

Absentees from Anfield started return. Banter in the pubs and on the buses has been regenerated. The local club, as we witnessed in last season's Milk Cup final, has always been more humorously sympathetic than Sheffield's grudging acknowledgement, Mancunian shyness or Brummie phlegm. Everton's new manager, Howard Kendall, today in the FA Cup semi-final, but the Blues will travel to Villa Park believing they are the team of the year, with the chance to prove it in three competitions.

Everton strive for wider appeal

A side-effect of Everton's success has been to increase Anfield's attendance. Between 1974 and 1984, Liverpool games dropped from 46,000 to 31,000. This season, despite relative problems in the League, they have climbed back to 34,000, to stay ahead of Goodison, where there has been a dramatic rise of 50 per cent from last season's depressed 20,000.

What Everton, as yet, have not recaptured is the appeal of Liverpool which was theirs. In the Twenties and Thirties it was provided by the immortal Dean. In the Sixties it was Alex Young, who carried for a while that mesmerizing

aura, for the public as much as for opponents, which Finney had possessed at Preston. It is for more than Liverpool's place at Wembley that Rush and Dalglish are today playing against Manchester United. Everton, no less than Liverpool, have found under Howard Kendall's leadership that acute development of British professionalism which has so remarkably dominated the past 10 years of the European Cup, yet it is still Liverpool to whom we must look for the flair that separates the great from the good. Gray may be the tallman for Everton, but it is his heart as much as his feet or head that gives inspiration to his younger colleagues. Rush and Dalglish, together with Hansen in defence, have qualities that place them above and beyond identify with a particular team.

Dalglish, whom I admit to having thought was a spent force last season, has had an exceptional three months. Against Panathinaikos on Wednesday, in circumstances more defensively intimidating than Young ever knew, he moved with a blend of geometric precision and instinctive grace.

Hansen, I surmise, must be akin to another Scotsman of long ago, of whom *The Guardian* wrote in 1934: "It is his bewitching footwork which most delights the crowd. His scorching style may not be pretty but the control is perfect. His dribbling is a thing of nerves, feints and deceptions. Few opponents are not hounded by his phantom pass. Even the real one is nearly always masked. A lack of speed he clocks in a shrewd positional play, so that he intercepts more often than he tackles. But it is a flair in his armour. Some would find another in a spirit of adventure which will not be repressed even in front of his own goal. He does daredevil things that make the directors feel old before their time." The player was Matt Busby.

Yet it is Rush, that youthful, waned-faced Welshman, whom Liverpool would now most miss. His two goals

in midweek, nailed Panathinaikos; if he now helps gain revenge on Manchester United, which I think is likely, for the League defeat at Anfield which stunted Liverpool's late challenge, it will consolidate his potential to earn a personal million simply by putting his signature to an Italian contract.

Although it is enough to turn the mind of a boy from Chester, indeed from anywhere, Liverpool will be hoping he can concentrate on their behalf for another six weeks, possible for at least another year. There are three years of his contract to run. If an Italian club cannot come up with an offer this summer, I doubt if Real Madrid, even with a new multi-millionaire president, can afford the 23 million Liverpool would demand.

Limit to what Rush can be offered

At the end of last season Liverpool were still a million in the black, compared with Everton, who were in the red by the same amount. A mad sense to let someone go at the end of 31. Fagan will be reluctant, however, to release Rush. It is to Liverpool's credit that they have always attempted, as Busby did, to put a player where he is wanted, rather than the pick, long as the books balanced. Yet there is an ultimate limit to what they can offer Rush, with maximum ticket prices at £4.40 compared with £20 in Italy. A compromise will probably be to release Rush at the end of next season, which would mean a year for him, after the World Cup, in which he would have to prove himself a quality player. Everton may claim the title in their final match of the season at Goodison against their neighbours, but if Rush remains on loan, he will be the player to play the odd half-dozen neutrals in the city.

Enfield try to end dismal run

By Paul Newman

Enfield, who lost 2-0 at home to Wests last week in the first leg of their FA Trophy semi-final, go into today's second leg hoping to end one of the worst runs in the club's modern history.

Since beating Maidstone United in the Trophy quarter-finals a month ago, Enfield have lost seven matches in succession. In addition to the setback against Wests, they have been knocked out of the Bob Lord Trophy and suffered five goals in their last four matches. As Arsenal are without their England forwards, Mariner and Woodcock, against Northampton Forest at Highbury, all-midfielders are recalled to form a new attacking partnership with Nicholas, Forest could also be without two England forwards, Dwyer is not expected to recover from a hamstring strain and Birles will have a fitness test on a knee injury.

Sunderland must decide whether to risk Hodgson in attack and Agboola in defence for the relegation battle at Coventry City. Both have recovered from injury but are not match fit. Sunderland will definitely be without Daniel (broken nose) and Gayle (hamstring).

Coventry have recovered from the influenza virus which forced them to postpone their last two games, but Killeen has an ankle injury, so Butterworth is recalled at centre half.

Spurs must win to stay in the race

By Paul Newman

Tottenham Hotspur are acutely aware that nothing less than a win will do when they attempt to revive their fading championship hopes at Leicester today. They are eight points behind the leaders, Everton, and have played a game more, but their manager, Peter Shreeves, refuses to concede that they are chasing a lost cause.

Roberts and Girdle both tested yesterday and Spurs will be unchanged as long as the two players suffer no reaction. Leicester, beaten in their last four matches, have recalled Poole to the midfield after a month's absence. He replaces Banks.

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third successive match for the visit of Queen's Park Rangers, after failing a fitness test on his knee. Also out are Clarke, with a broken nose, and Metcalf, who is serving a three-month suspension. A win would return to the Rangers attack after a three-match absence.

Parkes, the West Ham goalkeeper, makes his first appearance of the season in the morning game against Chelsea at Upton Park. With Martin suspended and facing a late fitness test, West Ham could be forced into a major defensive reshuffle.

The Big match in the second division is at Portsmouth, who expect a crowd of 35,000 for the visit of their promotion rivals, Birmingham. Portsmouth will be without their captain, Kennedy who begins his third suspension at Grimsby. He has missed Chelsea's last three matches with a knee injury. Toimie and Clements are certain to return.

Leeds, at home to Crystal Palace and Oxford, at Wolverhampton Wanderers expect to be unchanged. Brighton will be without defender, Young at Notts County tomorrow as he begins a two-match suspension after amassing 31m disciplinary points. Pearce replaces him.

Waddle of Newcastle misses his

Brown will say he is sorry

Ken Brown (right), the Norwich City manager, has been asked by the Football Association to explain remarks made about the referee after last week's defeat at Arsenal. Brown felt that Charlie Nicholas should have been sent off after elbowing John Dwyne in the face. The Scot was booked and then scored Arsenal's first goal in the 2-0 win 10 minutes from time.

Freight Rover draw

Brentford meet the winners of the Bournemouth-Walsall tie in the Southern Area semi-finals of the Freight Rover Trophy draw made yesterday.

United embattled at Tynecastle

Dundee United are confident that they can end Aberdeen's hopes of taking a Scottish Cup double, a historic fourth time in row by winning the semi-final at Tynecastle today. "It is our last chance of securing an honour this season," their manager, Jim McLean said. "Our recent record is deeper than those of Aberdeen."

Whichello saves six match points

Joakin Nystrom, the Swede who was left on the sidelines as his country triumphed over the United States in the Davis Cup final last December, reached the last four in the World Championship Tennis final at the Reunion Centre here on Thursday night. His victory in straight sets over John McEnroe, the United States Open and Wimbledon champion, was achieved after he had completed his best golf score earlier in the day.

McEnroe loses to the golfing Swede

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Chance for Hull KR to secure title

With clubs digging deep into their reserve strength, and players suffering from strains of every kind, Hull Kingston Rovers have a fine opportunity to clinch the Slalom Lager championship this weekend. Tomorrow they go to St Helens for a match between the two red clubs, a slight relegation cloud hovering over them.

Clark hopes to spot the talent

Ivan Clark, the England Under-21 team manager, has special interest in the two-day junior divisional tournament starting today on artificial turf at Loughborough. He has his last chance to spot talent for the junior world cup tournament at Vancouver from August 10 to 24.

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Eklund agrees to Bruno's title challenge

Frank Bruno will meet Anders Eklund of Sweden for the European heavyweight title at Wembley on May 14. The promoter Mike Barrett secured the bout yesterday with a successful purse offer to the Swedish boxer of 640,000 Swiss francs (£201,000).

Abused and overused it has to do it all

"Why not do a Sidelines piece about the word 'it'?" a fellow hack casually suggested, pointing to a Times headline that said "Wales still have it all to do." "What a good idea," I murmured, and began thinking about it straightaway.

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Sunday

Summaries: Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

TV

6.15 **Good Morning Britain**, presented by Mike Morris, begins with a cartoon; news at 7.00 and 1.00; sport at 7.10 and 7.50; Saturday view at 6.35 discusses why fewer and other allergies; cooking at 7.30; advice on holidays in Greece at 7.45. The guests include Nigel Hawthorne, Geraldine McEwan and Jill Bennett.

8.30 **The Wide Awakes Club.**

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **LWT Information.** **9.30** **Strawberry Shortcake.** **10.00** **No 73** with guests the Rosenzweig-Burger Band, ved David Taylor and the latest video by Marilyn. **11.20** **The Fall Guy.** Cost Saviors tangles with a corrupt city alderman.

12.15 **World of Sport**, introduced by Dickie Davies. The line-up is: **12.20** **Canoesing:** The London Rowing Club racing Champsdowns from Bats. **12.45** **News:** **12.50** **On the Ball** with Ian St John and Jimmy Graves; **1.15** **Golf:** the US Open highlights of the first two rounds; **1.55** **Leeds** and **3.30** **Racing from Salisbury;** **4.40** **Railings:** the Rothmans Circuit of Ireland; **2.10** **World of Sport** from Moscow and **Croydon;** **2.40** **Advised:** The Rank Xerox 10 kilometre. **Series Final** from Battersea Park, London; **3.45** **Half-time** scores and reports; **3.55** **Cricket:** the County Championship at Darlington; **Silverstar:** Mitzie v Martin McGough and Rocky Kelly against Kostas Petrou; **4.45** **Results.**

5.00 **News** and sport.

5.05 **Backstagers:** General knowledge game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes.

5.35 **Robin of Sherwood.** The final episode of this superior adventure series and King John gives the Sheriff of Norham one more chance to capture Robin (Oracle).

6.40 **The Grumbleweeds Radio Show.** The first of a new series starring five talented comics in a collection of hilarious sketches.

7.10 **T. J. Hooker.** The policeman helps a friend to bring peace between the precinct's rival gangs.

8.05 **The Price Is Right.** Game show presented by Leslie Crowther.

9.05 **News** and sport.

9.20 **Celebrity.** Part one of a three-episode mini series to be shown on consecutive nights. **Michael Beck,** Joseph Bottoms and Ben Masters star in this story spanning 25 years in the lives of three Texas high school seniors who harbour secret thoughts of ruining each other's successful careers (see *Orz* on page 10).

9.55 **Magnus.** A fancy dress ball is the scene of a murder and the Hawaii-based detective is hired to investigate.

10 **Night Thoughts.**

CHANNEL 4

- 2.25 **Open University. Until 3.10.**
- 3.10 **Film: 'Stolen Assignment'**
(1955) starring John Bentley and Hy Hazell as two rival newspaper reporters on the trail of the missing wife of an artist. Directed by Terence Fisher.
- 4.10 **Film: 'The Prince of Central Park' (1977) starring Ruth Gordon, T. J. Hughes and Lisa Richards.** A sentimental tale about a lonely old woman and her orphaned nephews who have run away from their sadistic foster-mother and are living in a tree in New York's Central Park. Directed by Harvey Hirsch.
- 5.25 **World Snooker. Day two of the Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship.**
- 6.35 **The Day the Universe Changed.** Part four of James Burke's series on momentous events that changed man's civilisation, deals with the 19th century, the art of printing was developed (r).
- 7.25 **News and Sport. With Jan Leeming. Weather.**
- 7.40 **Rugby Special. Nigel Stammer-Smith and Bill Beaumont are the commentators for the highlights of the afternoon's Thom EMI County Championship Final between Middlesex and Notts, Lincs and Derbys at Twickenham.**
- 8.35 **World Snooker. The Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship.**
- 9.25 **Jephtha. Neville Martinson conducts the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Handel's oratorio, Jephtha. The work is in the form of a sacred drama and is the story of Jephtha, Judge of Israel and leader of the Army, taken from the Book of Judges. The story of Jephtha's daughter who is sacrificed by her father in order to fulfil a sacred vow. Introduced by H. C. Robbins Landon from St David's Hall, Cardiff. During the interval, 10.40 to 10.45, Sir Hugh Casson's famous Constable's painting of Salisbury Cathedral**
- 1.05 **Black and White and Read All Over (r).**
- 1.30 **Enthusiasts, presented Martin Burrows, Max Nicholson, chairman of the Ecological Park Trust, explains the work of the organisation (r).**
- 2.00 **Film: 'She' (1835) starring Helen Gahagan and Randolph Scott. The first sound version of H. Rider Haggard's novel. Directed by Irving Pichel and Lansing G. Holden.**
- 3.45 **Film: 'Dr Cyclops' (1940) starring Albert Dekker. Science fiction thriller about a deranged scientist who uses a ray machine to turn people into miniatures. Directed by Ernest B. Schoedsack.**
- 5.05 **Brookside (r).**
- 6.00 **The Max Headroom Show. Rock videos, including, this week, the Thompson Twins.**
- 6.30 **No Problem Comedy series about five black Londoners who share a Wileedon semi (r).**
- 7.00 **News summary and weather followed by 7 Days. From St Seuno's, a Jesuit retreat in North Wales, Martin Decker explains how her faith has sustained her from the time, 18 months ago, she was told she had cancer.**
- 7.30 **Union World. Ann Lester is in South Wales where she talks to those miners who are aiding voluntary redundancy and to others who are being moved to alternative pits.**
- 8.00 **Tales from a Long Room. Robin Bailey stars as the Brigadier in a new series of monologues in which the bigoted, male chauvinist cricket lover expounds his theories in a highly prejudiced and humorous manner. Tonight's subject is apartheid — but it is nothing to do with the colour of a person's skin.**
- 8.15 **Winston Churchill — The Wilderness Years. Part one of an eight-episode series, first shown on ITV, based on volume five of Martin Gilbert's official biography covering Churchill's life between 1929 and 1939.**
- 8.15 **Clive James meets Katharine Hepburn. An extremely rare television interview recorded in Miss Hepburn's sitting room.**
- 10.15 **Tennis. The WCT Tennis finals from Dallas.**
- 11.15 **Book. The third round of the United States Masters from Augusta, Georgia.**
- 1.00 **approximately Closes down.**

v-am

4.45 Open University. Unit 8.50.
8.55 Play School, presented by Sheelagh Gibby and Ben Thomas. S.15 Superbook. The first programme in a new series of adventures set in Biblical times. 9.30 This is the Day. Worship and prayer from a home in Ealing, west London.

10.00 Asian Magazine. 10.30 Use Your Head. Part four deals with the importance of key words in memory and recall (r). 10.55 Greek Language and People. Lesson four (r).

11.20 Talking Book. The last in the series about the 1960s. The Eighties (r). 11.45 Business Cuts. Raising finance (r). 12.10 Mr Smith's Indoor Garden. Part seven - foliage plants (r). 12.35 Farming. 12.56 Weather.

1.00 News headlines. 1.45 Boris Yeltsin visits a friend, then a lawless town (r). 1.50 Cartoon Double Bill. 2.00 EastEnders. A compilation of the week's episodes (Ceefax). 3.00 Film: Macfieft (1955) starring Stewart Granger, George Sanders and Joan Greenwood. Swashbuckling 18th-century smuggling adventure. Directed by Fritz Lang.

4.25 Top Gear. William Woollard reports on the latest touring and motor caravans; Sue Barker examines diesel cars; Page Kennedy drives the MG Montego Turbo (r).

4.55 Arthur Negus at Eighty. As a tribute to the late Arthur Negus a repeat of the programme shown in March 1983, celebrating his 80th birthday.

5.45 Antiques Roadshow. Introduced by Hugh Scully from Banbury, Oxfordshire (Ceefax).

5.55 Appeal by Robert Hardy on behalf of the Church of St Ignace, Stanford-on-Avon, Northants.

6.30 News with Jan Leeming. Weather.

6.40 Songs of Praise from St Mary's Church, Stafford (Ceefax).

7.15 Last of the Summer Wine. Foggy volunteers himself and his chums to help a farmer bring a vintage car back to his garage (r) (Ceefax).

7.45 Mastermind. The specialist subjects are: Jan Hus and the Hussite Wars, 1415 to 1437; English poetry of the First World War; history of astronomy/cosmology to 1700; and the history of Athens, 560-323BC. A semi-final, introduced by Magnus Magnusson.

8.15 Play: A Month in the Country, by Ivan Turgenev. A romantic comedy starring Elaine Brown as the woman of "a certain age" whose romantic feelings for a young tutor threatens everyone with disaster. With Ian Charleson, Amanda Woodward and Wendy Phillips Calvert. Directed by Bill Hays.

9.20 News with Jan Leeming. Weather.

9.30 The Rock Gospel Show features Larry Norman, the man who invented Christian rock and roll.

9.55 The Coming of Age. The prequel to the series when an old person loses a long time



Richard Briers: A Month in the Country (BBC 1, 8.15 pm). And Prunella

CHANNEL 4

6.25 Open University. Until 1.55.
1.55 Handel at St John's. A repeat showing of a concert recorded at St John's Church, as part of the 300th anniversary celebrations of Handel's birth. The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, directed by Neville Martina (violin) performs Arrival of the Queen of Sheba, Water Music Suite in D, Harpsichord Concerto, Op 4 No 3 in F minor (soloist, Gerald Malcolm) and Concerto Grosso, Op 6 No 11.
2.40 World Snooker. The Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship, third day.
6.15 News Review. A digest of the week's news presented by Michael Stuart. Substitutes.
6.40 World Snooker. Another visit to the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.
7.15 Play: Edward Lear - on the Edge of the Sand, by Alan Water, starring Robert Lang as Lear, Anne Shalhaby as his sister, Ann. A biography of the shy and lonely man, the 20th of 21 children, who suffered from frequent attacks of epilepsy but who managed to enrich the world of Victorian writers with his limericks and his paintings of birds and landscapes. He enjoyed the patronage of Lord Derby but his failing health sent him to the Mediterranean in the winters where he explored the wildest parts - almost always on foot. Directed by John Glenister.
8.15 World Snooker. The concluding frames of Jimmy White's first round match in the Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship, introduced by David Vine.
8.45 Handel's Messiah. A film documentary in which Professor H. C. Robbins Landon tells the story of Handel's most popular work. It is performed by the Dyetd Choir, the Leipzig Radio Choir and the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras and James Low.
9.55 World Snooker. The opening frames of Ray Reardon's first round match.
10.20 Bleak House. Episode one of the ten-part adaptation of Charles Dickens's novel starring Diana Rigg and Desmond Elliot. Esther Summerson, raised as an orphan, is sent to London where she meets her guardian for the first time (r). (Ceefax).
1.15 World Snooker. Highlights of this evening's matches in the first round of the Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship. Ends at 12.35.
1.10 Irish Gaelic examines Dubliners' addition to arcade slot-machines.
1.35 Gaelic. A documentary about the crafts and rural life in the west of Ireland.
2.00 A Question of Economics. What is meant by market forces?
2.30 The Best of CLR James. The celebrated West Indian historian discusses Shakespeare.
3.00 Tennis. The second semi-final of the WCT Tennis tournament from the Reunion Arena in Dallas, Texas. Following the tennis Steve Perry reports from Augusta, Georgia, on the opening holes of the final round in the US Masters tournament.
5.00 The Amateur Naturalist. The final programme in the series and Gerald and Lee Durrell explore a tropical rainforest and a tropical reptile (r).
5.30 News summary and weather followed by The Business Programme. Market journalist Spencer has joined the growing number of stores offering financial services to their customers. Will the company move into the areas of pensions, private shares? Colin Chapman's report includes an analysis of how similar services offered in stores in the United States have fared.
6.15 International Volleyball. The second women's semi-final of the Coo Dynamic tournament between Teodora of Italy and South Korea.
7.15 A Secret Place. A film about a remote and wild East Anglian fen and the animals that call it home (r).
7.45 Qaf. Another programme in the Worldview series, this one a surrealist vision portraying the staggering power of a volcanic eruption.
8.15 Mapp and Lucia. Part one of a five-episode dramatisation of the comic novels by E F Benson about the genteel and deadly enmity of two ladies who dominate the social society during the 1920s. Starring Prunella Scales, Geraldine McEwan and Nigel Hawthorne.
9.15 Gulltrap Part five of Julian Bream's history of the Spanish guitar examines the rise of national music in Spain at the end of the 19th century.
9.45 Opinions. Timothy Garton Ash examines the ways in which the post war division of Europe could be overcome.
10.15 Golf. The final round of the US Masters. Steve Perry reports from Augusta, Georgia.
12.30 Approximately Closedown.

Radio 2

20 Come Out You Reds! Nigel Rennie
 and the London Sinfonia and Forces
 of Arsenal Football Club
 30 The Boggers. Comedy with John
 Docherty, Moryn Murray, Peter
 Brown and John Cleese (*new series*)
 12.00-12.15 News
 Weather: 12.35 Shipping
 VHF available in London and S
 W. (see page 14) VHF 16 as
 above except 5.55-4.00am
 Weather: Travel: 1.55-2.00pm
 Listening Corner: 5.50-5.55pm
 Programme News

Radio 3

55 Weather: 7.00 News.
 60 Aobede: Barber's *Overture*
 Scored for the New York
 P/O/Schippers; Ballets, from
 Songs of Auvergne (Yvon Stasse,
 mezzo); Schubert's (Tom Scott,
 piano); *Orchestra* (Barthel
 Lovatt/Zappert); Arnold's
 English Dances; second set (P.O.
 Schippers) by the conductor.
 Handley's *Debut* motto (Ariodante),
 sung by Baker, mezzo, with ECO
 under Leppard; Rossini's Ballet,
 La Fontaine; and the arrangement
 by Respighi (National P.O.
 Schippers).

65 Record Review: including
 Richard Osborne's 'consumers'
 guide to recordings of Tristan and
 Isolde, and John Crillwell reviews
 new piano releases.

70 Stereo Release: Mozart's *Sonata*
 in B flat K 535 (L'Oiseau-Phonos)
 Chappell's *Solero* Op 19
 (Ashkenazy, piano); Granados's
Escenas romanticas (Alfaro, p.)
 and *Escenas de Goya*; Debussy's
Estampes (Kroccia, piano).

75 BBC Welsh 30 (under Owen
 Iwan Hughes), with Nigel
 Kennedy, violin, and Vain Ovin
 Kerne. Elgar's *Symphony No*
 1, Interval reading at 11.55. 1.00 News.

80 Record Review: Trio in B flat major
 Op 11; Cello *Sonata* in A minor
 Op 69 (Hilton, clarinet;
 Kraschinsky, cello; Frank, piano).

85 Hearstwood: *Part one*. Moderato.
Part one. With
 Raglan Baroque Players and
 Singers (under Kraemer), with
 soloists Kwaile, Fayer, Mills,
 and Corder. Variations.
 Slightly. Interval reading at 3.00.
 Parts two and three of the *Handel*
 work.

90 20th Century Piano Music: Jan
 Vankarav's piano Bartok's *Six*
 dances in Bulgarian rhythm
 (Mikocskanov's Stralichkov's Suite
 No 10 in D major's Dances of
 the Dolls).

95 Jazz Record Requests: with
 Peter Clayton.

100 Critics Forum: Nigel Andrews,
 Michael Stangton, John Carey
 and William Fawcett discuss, inter
 alia, Norman Jewison's film *A*
Soldier's Story, and the
 production of the *Center of St*
Thomas's.

Radio 3

7.35 **Muscle for the Iron Voice:** Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini on the Ebert organ of 1558 in the Hofkirche, Innsbruck, plays works by Antonio Zaccaria da Teramo, Michele Pesenti, Bartolomeo Bruolo, Andrea Storiel, and Wilbert J.

7.05 **Paragon Ensemble:** Malcolm Arnold's *Diversions: Flonist Strains* a tour of aches; and Villa-Lobos's *Quinteto as forme de Choros*; Ponce's *Quinteto*.

7.55 **La Petite Bande:** Haydn's *Sinfonia in B flat, H1 108* and Gossec's *Symphony in A major Op 5 No 4*.

8.30 **The Objectives of Arms Control:** Paul H. Nitze, Special Adviser on Arms Control to the United States Secretary of State gives the 1985 Alastair Buchan Memorial Lecture.

9.15 **Honegger and Sanguet:** Honegger's *Symphony No 2* for orchestra and trumpet (Berlin Philharmonia/Karajan, with Sanguet, trumpet); Sanguet's *Cello Concerto*, Melodie concertante, with Moscow Radio SO under the composer, and Rostropovich as soloist.

9.15 **Park Lane Sextet:** Strauss's *Saxtet* (Capriccio); and Rega's *Saxtet in F Op 118*.

11.0 **Peter Schreier:** the German tenor, with Norman Shetler, piano, sings Schumann's *Lensu Lied* Op 81, Der Heilige Op 30 - No 3; Choralino *Lieder* Op 40.7

1.40 **Nunes:** Until 11.43.

1.45 **Russian Orthodox Easter Vigil:** from All Saints Russian Orthodox Church, London, conducted by Metropolitan Anthony of Souzh, with commentary by Alyona Koshchikova. Ends at 3.40. VHF only: 8.35am-8.55 Open University: Maths Foundation Tutorial.

Radio 1

Radio 10

On medium wave, 1 stereo on VHF News on the hour until 1.00 p.m. 3.00, then from 6.00 (except 6.00 p.m. and 9.00)

5.00 a.m. David Dunning, 7.00 George Thompson, 8.00 David Dunning, 10.00 Sounds Of The 60's, 11.00 a.m. Union Time! with Peter Clayton, 11.02 Sport: Radio 1, 1.00 The News, 1.05 David Dunning, 2.00 Sports On 2, includes racing from Salisbury, 2.00 Salisbury, 1.00 Guinness Trial Stakes, 3.40 Salisbury, 2.00 Guinness Stakes and FA Cup, 3.40 One of today's cup tie battles between Liverpool and Manchester United, 4.00 Lutzon v Evergreen, 6.00 Foli On 2, 7.00 Jumpy Club, 7.00 Foli On 2, 7.30 Gals On 2, 8.00 Foli On 2, 8.30 The Big Band Session, 10.02 Sports Desk, 10.05 Steve Jones, 12.05 a.m. Sports Desk, Night Owls, 1.00 Night Ride, 3.00-4.00 Country Connection (End Bruce), 1.00

WORLD SERVICE

Radio 1

On medium wave, † also stereo on VHF. News on the half hour into 12.30 pm, then 2.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30 and 12 midnight.

6.00 am Mark Page. 8.00 Peter Powell. 10.00 Dave Lee Travis. 1.00 pm 30 Years Of Rock † 2.00 Paul Gambaccini † 4.00 Saturday Live † 5.30 in Concert (Terraplane and Tobruk) † 7.30 Graham Bannerman (incl. Icicle Works and The Pogues). 9.30-12.00 Debbie Peach. VHF Radioes 1 & 2: 4.00 am With Radio 2. 1.00 pm With Radio 1. 7.30-4.00 am With Radio 2.

Discussion about U.S. Policy in Central America

[illegible]

Radio 3

Radio 3

6.55 Weather's *Une Percussion sur l'océan*
7.05 Ravel's *Trois ballets sur l'océan*
 Maurice Ravel: *PO (Ballets) Mozart*
 Clarinet Concerto in A, K 822
 (Brymer, Academy of St Martin
 in the Fields) 1. 00.00
 Maurice Ravel: *La Valse*, Ravel
 Rapéodie espagnole
 (Philadelph/Mult.)
8.00 Bach: *Chaconne BWV 1024*; Hakt: *Om*
Geadochthis Jessum Christ (Munich
 State Opera Ensemble under
 Richter/Munch Bach
 Soloists Bengtson,
 Pears, and Engen.) 1. 00.00
8.20 Domenico Scarlatti: *Sonata in G*
Major (Gullifex) 1. 00.00
 Giuseppe Verdi: *La Traviata*
 C minor, KJ73 (Gullifex/Varemu)
 Tetide in Sciro: Act 1 and 2
 excerpts, with soloists
 (Gullifex-Polska)
 Tymietowska, Flaga, Antoniak and
 Szyturowski, 1. 00.00
9.05 Your Concert Choice: de
 Montanari's *Missa in M*
 (Hesperian JKC); Moternvadi's
Beatus Vir (primus) & de (Tewener
 Concert Avenue) *Players*; Smit
 organ, *May*, video (Hurtford, 1.00.00)
 CO: *Jehan Alain's Litanies from*
Tristes (Hurtford, organ)

in A; and No 12
 . †
 and/or Wagner

	indifference – a study of the pianist Glenn Gould's approach. Bach: I
11.15	BostonSO (under Dutoit): A Mozart concert. Part one: the Sinfonia Concertante in ff. 257a (Gombert, flute; Wright, clarinet; Sherman Wall, Bass; Kavakolis, horn). I
11.50	Words: another of Lord Byron's. Schubert's
11.55	Concert part two. Serenade for major, K 250, with Silverstall violin.
12.55	Schumann and Mendelssohn: Schumann's Piano, piano, piano Schumann's Festliche Gesänge aus Wien; and Mendelssohn's Songs without Words, including No 3 in A; and No 12 in F sharp minor. I
1.45	Langhorne: Wagner's Three

Radio 2

6.00 *Opera*: Sing in German; Stieglitz Jerusalem sings the title role
 7.00 *Classical*: Soloists include Joseph Vogge, Magdalena Hagenbach-Vogel, Anton Raffelt, Uta Vinzing
 8.00 *Classical*: Wolfgang Haischuld conducts the Martin and Leonore Mozart Choir and Leipzig Radio S.O.
 9.00 *Classical*: 2 at 5.20, Act 3 at 6.20, 1
 9.30 *Classical*: New Premieres: Review of Stephen Glass's arts review
 10.00 *Classical*: Sarah Walker performs a Polish Chopin mazurka
 10.30 *Classical*: marteau sans maître
 11.00 *Classical*: Sir John Oldcastle: The Bratt Union
 11.30 *Classical*: Variation of the work by Michael Drayton and Christopher Marlowe
 12.00 *Classical*: Hepton plays the man who was the model for Shakespeare's hero
 12.30 *Classical*: Also in the music: Schröder, Josie Acland, Antonio Lesser and Hugh Dickson
 13.00 *Classical*: Bruckner: Symphony No. 8, N.S.
 13.30 *Classical*: Symphony Orchestra of the Guelph
 14.00 *Classical*: Goetz: Sonata in G minor Op. 10
 14.30 *Classical*: Played by Richard Parkinson
 15.00 *Classical*: David Nettles (marionet)
 15.30 *Classical*: The Double Happiness Comp.
 16.00 *Classical*: Toru Funai reads Ann Taylor short story
 16.30 *Classical*: Norman Longfords under Seamus
 17.00 *Classical*: With Stephen Warde (baritone), Haydn's Symphony
 17.30 *Classical*: 44; Delius's A song before sunrise; George Butterworth
 18.00 *Classical*: Love songs as the new power
 18.30 *Classical*: Kodaly's Summer evening, 1
 19.00 *Classical*: Venus, Until 12.00
 19.30 *Classical*: Open University, 1
 20.00 *Classical*: 6.35m to 8.55m Perspectives
 20.30 *Classical*: Democracy.

1

Morning Sunday 1. 8.05 Sports Desk
8.00 Melodiscs For You 11.00 Desmond
Carrington 1.100 Two's Best 1.2.00
Benny Green 1.3.00 Sounds Easy 1.4.00
It's A Funny Business (Tommy Trader).
4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00
Charlie Chester, and 6.02 Sports Desk
6.30 Twentieth Century Troubadour
(Yves Montand) 7.00 Mail Murray 7.30
Glamorous Nights. 8.30 Sunday Hat-
Hour (from Macphedon) 9.00 Your
Hundred Best 10.02 Sports
Desk 10.05 Songs From The Shows
10.45 Robert Cooper, 11.00 Sounds Of
The 1950s 11.30 The Sound of
Nightside 1.3.00-4.00 John Dunn
presents Two's Best!

SUNDAY

[illegible]

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Damages threat over rail strike

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

British Rail has told the National Union of Railwaymen that it will take legal action against the union if it refuses to call off a planned one-day strike that would paralyse services in Scotland on Wednesday.

Rail union leaders have been called to a meeting with British Rail on Monday to respond to the management's demand that the proposed strike by 12,000 railway workers be called off.

British Rail has said that if the union refuses it will seek £250,000 damages under the terms of last year's Trade Union Act, as the union will not have held a ballot of the workers involved.

The strike has been called in protest at proposed job cuts at the Springburn locomotive works in Glasgow which the rail union believes will lead to the closure of the works in an area where unemployment is at 36 per cent.

Mr Jimmy Knapp, rail union general secretary, said after hearing of British Rail's consideration of legal action: "Threats from whatever source will not deflect us from our action unless we get positive assurances about the future of the Springburn railway works".

Monday's meeting with the NUR should be a serious negotiating meeting, he said, and added "I can't see our people staying very long if British Rail just want to give us a dressing-down".

British Rail said last night that the threatened action would cause financial damage to the railways at a time when the industry was trying to recover from the effects of the miners' strike.

It said that it is still collating information about losses suffered during a one-day strike on January 17 in the east Midlands and South Yorkshire. British Rail had threatened to sue for £250,000 damages for losses incurred during that strike but the management's threat was not taken seriously by the rail unions.

Thousands celebrate opening of mosque



The East London Mosque in Whitechapel, which has just been completed at a cost of over £2 million to serve the area's growing Muslim community (Photographs: Chris Harris)



At prayers in the main hall, and right, counting the day's collection.

TGWU asks for evidence to back call for new poll

Continued from page 1

not given the opportunity to vote. Evidence has also been given over the absence of ballot papers in a chemicals factory in Cheshire, and a second complaint has been made from Bristol concerning a different branch.

At a gin distillery in south London, a lorry driver has complained to Mr Evans that he and the 200 other union members were not given an opportunity to vote.

Mr Chris Pollitt, said a reply from Mr Evans, dated March 22, said that the complaint had been passed for investigation to Mr Stan Staden, the union's regional secretary for London and the South-east.

Mr Pollitt said last night that he feared the ballot papers may have been misused but he had no means of proving his suspicions.

Mr John Freeman, the union's regional secretary for Ireland, called yesterday for a report from officials on the distribution of ballot papers.

He said the balloting procedures at Harland and Wolff shipyard and two shops in Belfast should be given priority in the investigation. That followed allegations on the BBC television programme *Newsnight* that union members in those branches had not been given the opportunity to vote.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said last night that the controversy in the union emphasized the need for the Government's legislation on requiring union officials to be elected in a secret ballot with a preference that there should be postal voting.

Some union officials believe it is inevitable that more complaints about the conduct of the election will surface, and that it will be difficult for the union leadership to withstand pressure for an investigation at the very least, or possibly a fresh vote.

It is thought most unlikely that Mr Wright would instigate legal action against the union to force a new vote although there is nothing to stop individual union members reporting to the law.

Expulsion move, page 2

Letter from Moscow Dodging the ice as spring crashes in

The fact that Russia is a superpower sometimes conveys a false image of modern efficiency to the Western mind. This thought struck me forcefully the other day as I was splashing through vast puddles of muddy water to The Times office. Part of the problem is that ordinary words like office or shop have connotations in the West which they do not carry in the Soviet Union.

Spring in Moscow means, not lambs and daffodils, but great chunks of ice crashing from the roofs of blocks of flats as the long awaited thaw sets in. Occasionally it means a smashed windscreen if you park too close to the building. On the streets the mounds of ice and snow swiftly become lakes of muddy water.

In many ways, Russia is a superpower in its social services and amenities, yet spring is also the time when Moscow's ancient plumbing becomes contaminated and the tap water is unfit to drink. Foreign families are advised by Western doctors in Moscow to boil water to avoid illnesses.

Contrary to widely held belief in the West, the Soviet health system is backward, unhygienic and overcrowded, and foreigners who fall ill tend to fly out to Helsinki for treatment or turn to Western embassies.

In many ways, Russia is still backward, even in the capital. Water, gas and electricity supplies are all cheap, one of the advantages of Soviet society, but the standard of service is low. Every summer, the hot water system is turned off in every block of flats, including ours, so that the boiler and pipes can be cleaned.

After a while you take this for granted, as Russians do, as

for electricity, any equipment which relies on a digital time is useless because fluctuations in the electricity supply, familiar to Third World residents, render digital clocks inaccurate. Fortunately, perhaps, electronic goods are almost unknown in any case.

Russian pleasures are simpler: a walk through the spring puddles to the peasant market, for example, to buy wooden Easter eggs. This weekend is Russia's linguistic pitfall: I might say that the route takes us past a stationery store, and images of W H Smith come to mind. But our shop has no carpet, few Moscow shops do, the concrete floors are awash in mud and slush, and instead of colourful eye catching displays of books, pens and records there are piles of coarse paper, cheap school notebooks and string for wrapping.

The prize item is toilet paper, one kind only, of the Spartan Army-issue variety. On we go by way of a beer bar, which might call to mind a pub, tables, chatter.... But no, in our beer bar you stand, the watery beer comes in thick, chipped glasses, and the clientele is exclusively male and the worse for wear by mid day.

There are however splendid parks in which to take the spring air in Moscow, variety, and the markets. Again, not the market that the English word suggests, but a specifically Russian place where the smells are of pickles and apples, and where jolly peasant women offer the flowers they grow in their dacha gardens outside the city.

They also offer, sometimes from the counter, beautifully painted wooden eggs with religious themes, in colours which enrich an otherwise drab existence, like the thaw itself. Russian Easter eggs symbolize the coming of spring after the seemingly endless dark Russian winter.

Richard Owen

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions

Questions about Sculpture: Bolton Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, Mon to Fri.

Paintings and drawings by Arthur Kitching: Linton Court Gallery, Duke Street, Settle, N. Yorks; Tues, Fri and Sat 11 to 5; Sun 2 to 5 and closed Mon, Wed and Thur (ends May 12).

Art by Architects: Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, 40 Albert Place, Stirling; Wed to Sun 2 to 5 and closed Mon and Tue (ends May 12).

Paintings and drawings by Per Kirkby: Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 5; (ends May 12).

Concert by the Skelmerthorpe Male Voice Choir, Lincoln Cathedral, 7.30.

Concert by the Trio Sonnerie, Holywell Music Room, Oxford, 8.

Organ recital by Ton Koopman, Framingham Church, Wingfield, Suffolk, 7.30.

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Pottery Restoration demonstration by Maureen Robson, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, 10.30 to 12.30.

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9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5 and closed Wed and Sun (ends May 11).

Portraits on Paper: West Corridor, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 and Sun 2 to 5 (ends May 12). Paintings and drawings by

Arthur Kitching: Linton Court Gallery, Duke Street, Settle, N. Yorks; Tues, Fri and Sat 11 to 5; Sun 2 to 5 and closed Mon, Wed and Thur (ends May 12).

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